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## Roselle I. Carreon is Teacher of the Year

Oleai Elementary School's Roselle I. Carreon, a 4th grade teacher, pose with her family members, OES staff members, Public School System Commissioner Glenn Muna, Board of Education members Herman Atalig, Herman Guerrero, Janice Tenorio, and BOE chair Marylou Ada yesterday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
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REPORTER

**A**n Oleai Elementary School teacher who has been with the Public School System for over 10 years was recognized yesterday as the 2019 State Teacher of the Year.

Roselle I. Carreon, a fourth-grade teacher at Oleai Elementary School, was named yesterday the 2019 CNMI PSS State Teacher of the Year, while Hopwood Middle School's Michael Berbes was named

2019 CNMI Instructor of the Year and Garapan Elementary school's Grace Belyea and Hopwood Middle School's Salote Kesol tied as 2019 CNMI Teacher Aide of the Year.

Education Commissioner Glenn

Muña said that Super Typhoon Yutu delayed the awarding, which he noted was usually announced before Thanksgiving.

"We wanted to recognize our teacher, instructor, and teacher aide of the year before the end of the year 2018," said Muña. "It was deserving to recognize these hard-working individuals and I am very grateful for their services."

In a short statement to *Saipan Tribune*, Carreon noted she feels both humbled and honored.

**See TEACHER on Page 4**

## CPA board OKs office space for Skymark

» **Board also adopts resolution welcoming Skymark to CNMI**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors approved yesterday

day CPA's proposed agreement with Skymark Airlines Inc. for the company's three-year lease of an office space at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

At the same CPA board meeting, the CPA board adopted a resolution welcoming to the CNMI Skymark

**See SKYMARK on Page 4**

## SBA loan approval reaches over \$40M

By **JON PEREZ**  
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REPORTER

As of Monday, the U.S. Small Business Administration has already approved a combined total of 721 disaster loans—for both homes and businesses—amounting to

\$43,632,400.

Of that amount, loans arising from Super Typhoon Yutu total \$41,895,400, while Typhoon Mangkhut approvals reached \$1,737,000.

According to SBA public information officer Cynthia Cowell, the SBA

**See SBA on Page 4**

## King-Hinds is new CPA board chair

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors elected Kimberlyn King-Hinds yesterday as its new board chairperson, replacing longtime chair Jose R. Lifofoi.

This puts two board chairmanships under King-Hinds' belt. She used to chair the Board of Regents of the

Northern Marianas College.

At yesterday's CPA board meeting, Thomas P. Villagomez, who has been serving as acting chair for several months already in the absence of Lifofoi, moved to elect King-Hinds as the new chairwoman.

The board unanimously approved her election. She is the first woman to chair the CPA board.

Roman M. Tudela Sr.

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King-Hinds



### INSIDE



#### SUPPLEMENT

Today's supplement, Christmas Unwrapped, gives gift ideas for Christmas shopping.

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#### NATION

The fight over President Donald Trump's \$5 billion wall funds deepens.

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Actor Geoffrey Rush is accused of sexual misconduct.

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## Local

### 'Many shelterees have no home to return to; some have medical needs'

The remaining shelterees at the Kagman Emergency Shelter simply have nowhere else to go because of the severity of the damage their homes sustained from Super Typhoon Yutu, according to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter yesterday.

"They simply have no home and no options for a place to put a tent," he added.

Another reason why the Kagman shelter still has about 39 families, or about 150 shelterees in its facility, as of Monday is "they have medical conditions that require power," Hunter told *Saipan Tribune*.

While there is no specific date for the closure of the Kagman shelter, Hunter projects that the shelter would be open for at least three months from the typhoon.

"As the weeks roll by, we would be looking at the numbers population-wise and need-wise for those that remain," he said. "...We would sometime in the interim determine who is [in the shelter, how many are in need] and whatever we need to do to get those people out of

the shelter."

The KESF was only recently used as an emergency long-term shelter for victims of Super Typhoon Yutu late October 2018. The repurposed former juvenile

detention facility sustained little damage from Typhoon Yutu, Hunter said in a previous interview, noting that the bunker-like architecture of the facility is ideal for future typhoons. He previously indicated that discussions to make the facility a permanent long-term shelter are in the pipeline. **(Erwin Encinares)**

### 'Street Market might take awhile'

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' CNMI Arts Council, which administers the weekly Street Market at the Garapan Fishing Base, is working toward re-opening the mini-food fair despite Super Typhoon Yutu destroying several equipment essential for its operation.

Arts Council executive director Parker Yobei asks for the patience and understanding of both the community and the 32 food and non-food vendors that participate in the weekly event.

"...Our whole power system for the [Street Market] is no longer [in existence]," Yobei told *Saipan Tribune*.

The council is also working to replace two destroyed weather heads that easily costs about \$1,500 apiece; some electrical lines; and 12 panel boxes with eight outlets each,

to name a few of their needs.

"It's hard to do anything without a power source," Yobei said, adding that while the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power line that goes through the area is already online, without the panel boxes to connect to CUC lines, then "there isn't much we can do."

"We need power to operate," Yobei said. "Until we get those things in place and some infrastructure back, I cannot [release] a date right now."

Yobei assured that his office is currently in discussions with local hardware stores for their electrical equipment needs, but it might take a while since funding is something that needs to be considered.

"Slowly but surely we will get there," he said. "I ask the [public and the vendors] for their patience." **(Erwin Encinares)**

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# HANMI donates \$20K in holiday meals for Yutu victims

To help spread holiday cheer to community members still in recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands donated \$20,000 in holiday meals gift certificates on Dec. 14 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

The vouchers are being distributed by ARC to families they are serving, individuals still living in shelters, and Karidat Social Services for further distribution.

"HANMI is very pleased to partner with the American Red Cross on this holiday meal giveaway for members of our community who need it the most," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "While many residents have recovered, or largely recovered, from the immediate impact of Super Typhoon Yutu, there are others who have been struggling for nearly two months now and who will still have a long road of

recovery ahead. We're happy to be able to offer them a nice meal at one of our participating hotel restaurants through this program, and we hope that this small mental break will help lift their spirits a bit this holiday season."

The 1,000 vouchers are each worth a full buffet or \$20 toward ala carte as indicated. Participating restaurants are World Café, World Café Terrace, MAI Teppanyaki, and Tasty Burger (Fiesta Resort

& Spa Saipan); Dolphin Restaurant (GrandVrio Resort Saipan); Kili Café & Terrace breakfast and lunch (Hyatt Regency Saipan); The Grill (Laolao Bay Golf & Resort); and Magellan's and The Galley (Pacific Islands Club Saipan).

Additional participating restaurants not listed on the gift certificates are Costa Terrace Café (Aqua Resort Club) and Isla Café lunch on Mondays-Saturdays (Kanoa Resort).

"We are extremely grateful for the thoughtful and generous donation from HANMI. These vouchers will provide a special break and holiday meal for families most impacted by Typhoon Yutu" said John Hirsh, ARC-NMI Chapter executive director, in accepting the donation.

The gift certificates are valid through Feb. 10, 2019.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of

the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. (HANMI)



Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh, left, and HANMI secretary Ivan Quichocho, right, present \$20,000 in gift certificates for holiday meals to executive director John Hirsh of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter on Dec. 14, 2018, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

HANMI

## CARE to collaborate with recovery agencies

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts, which sprung out of the need to coordinate recovery efforts after Typhoon Soudelor three years ago, aims to work with recovery agencies again to efficiently aid those who were most affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

John Hirsh, a board member of Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts and executive director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, told *Saipan Tribune* that CARE has been looking at how the non-profit group fits into the plans for the CNMI's long-term recovery.

"The board is still active so every week we're re-assessing what our role is going to be in terms of long-term recovery. I think our work has to be in close collaboration with the local government and with [the Federal Emergency Man-

agement Agency]," he said.

Hirsh said that CARE wants to focus its resources on those who won't be receiving assistance from FEMA.

"FEMA has a long-term housing mission and long-term housing program so we're going to have to see, over the coming weeks, what sort of program are they going to start to implement here or if they're going to have a program here. Once those kinds of things are established, then we can kind of see how the CARE organization...can fit into that equation," he said.

Hirsh said the entire community will receive some kind of support but should remain patient because the road to recovery will be long due to the amount of destruction wrought by Yutu.

"We're confident and we're trying to be very positive about the outlook. I think our people here are very resilient and, with the resources from the Red Cross and from all the

other agencies on the island, whether they're non-profit or government or federal...[people are] all getting some level of support to begin this recovery process," he said.

"The recovery is a very long-term process. ...It's going to take years...for everyone to fully recover... like we learned from Soudelor so I hope the community can continue to stay patient and appreciate their neighbors and their friends and everything people are going through," he added.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, CARE would be focusing on individuals who either did not receive enough support from FEMA or are unqualified to be assisted by FEMA.

CARE was established following the onslaught of Super Typhoon Soudelor and ended its long-term recovery efforts only in August 2018. Altogether, about 600 homes were built by the organization, all for less than \$1 million.



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## BANK OF GUAM DONATION

Bank of Guam Saipan Branch president Marcie Tomokane and her team present a \$10,000 cash donation to Lady Diann Torres Foundation president Diann Torres and board treasurer Kathy Palacios for the use of furthering the non-profit's Super Typhoon Yutu relief efforts and programs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## BOOK LAUNCH

First lady Diann Torres and the Lady Diann Torres Foundation held a successful book publishing promotion for young author Cielo Gutierrez Long's book, *I Duendis*. Long was joined by her family for the promotional and book signing event held last weekend. For details about the book, the author or for inquiries on how to purchase, email ladydiannntorres@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## SKYMARK

From Page 1

Airlines, which will be the first Japan-based carrier to conduct air services in the CNMI since 2005.

Skymark had asked to lease office space at the airport as it prepares to launch flights between Japan and Saipan.

According to the lease

agreement, the company will lease 1,226 square feet of floor area on the mezzanine floor of the airport's terminal building for a monthly rent of \$1,826. The space was previously occupied by Delta Air Lines.

Newly-elected CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said they are excited to welcome Skymark as this is an air bridge from the

CNMI to Japan.

King-Hinds said everybody in the CNMI, including the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Governor's Office, and CPA are working hard to ensure that they promote and grow and reclaim the Japan market.

King-Hinds said Skymark wants to hit the ground running, although they are not going to be operational for a couple

of months down the line.

"It's exciting to be able to welcome them," she said, adding that the board also approved the resolution, welcoming them to the CNMI.

According to the CPA resolution, new direct air services between Japan and the CNMI will aid in the revival of the Japanese tourist market and subsequently benefit the people of the CNMI.

## TEACHER

From Page 1

"I did not expect to receive the honor, but I did my best in completing all requirements. I am extremely grateful. My mom, Brigida DLG Ichihara, was also the CNMI State Teacher of the Year for 1995 and was also the principal for Kobler Elementary School. She is my inspiration. My father, Juan A. Ichihara, was also an educator and a former administrator at WSR Elementary School. He, too, is an inspiration," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

"I am also thankful to my husband, Nick, and children, Jose and Isabel. They have

been my support in this wonderful profession [which is both] challenging and rewarding," she added.

Carreon is a three-time Oleai Elementary School Teacher of the Year for 2010, 2018, and 2019. This year, she bested 11 other candidates from other schools within PSS.

Carreon got her master's degree in education from the Framingham State College on Aug. 31, 2006, and her bachelor's degree in elementary education from the Northern Marianas College on Dec. 20, 2003.

She has over 14 years of teaching experience with OES at the kindergarten level, as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades since early 2004.

Hopwood Middle School, on the other hand, was able to bag two awards for the year, namely the Instructor of the Year and sharing the Teacher Aide of the Year with Garapan Elementary School.

Berbes was also awarded the Instructor of the Year plum last year.

"This job is one of the most fulfilling careers I have ever been in," Berbes told *Saipan Tribune*.

Although he was on the fence about switching careers many years ago, "I stayed because of my cadets," Berbes is an instructor at Hopwood for the Middle School Leadership Board, along with after-school programs for 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Berbes, who is also an U.S.

Army reservist, had been with the school since 2010. He is also an alumnus of Hopwood before going to high school at Marianas High School.

"Just seeing my cadets being successful when they join the [U.S.] military or if I see them in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program being commanders—that is the most fulfilling thing [in my line of work]," he said.

Hopwood's Salote Kesol shared the 2019 CNMI Teacher Aide of the Year award with Garapan Elementary School's Grace Belyea.

"I am very proud of them and they deserve to be recognized at the state level," said Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag.

## KING-HINDS

From Page 1

was elected vice chairman and Pete Reyes as the secretary.

Reyes and Barrie C. Toves retained their chairmanship of the seaport facilities committee and airport facilities committee, respectively.

Joseph Diaz is taking over the personnel affairs committee that Roman Tudela Sr. previously chaired. Villagomez is the new chairman of the financial affairs committee that King-Hinds previously handled.

In an interview, King-Hinds said it's an honor and privi-

lege to have the support of the board and the confidence of both the board and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to serve in this capacity as chair.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done, especially in light of the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu. So I'm just looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and helping move this ship forward," King-Hinds said.

She said Lifofoi, who has some health issues, is taking time off, is focused on being healthy and making sure his wife is healthy.

She clarified that Lifofoi is still a board member and is aware of the election of officers.

## SBA

From Page 1

has already approved a total of 667 home and business/EID loans for Yutu. For home loans alone, 625 applications, amounting to \$36,997,000, have been approved, she said. Yutu destroyed a lot of homes, mostly in the southern villages of Saipan.

Cowell cited these numbers in emphasizing that the SBA has been a viable partner in the CNMI's recovery from Typhoon Mangkhut on Rota and Super Typhoon Yutu on Saipan and Tinian.

The SBA is a federal government agency that offers low-interest loans to local entrepreneurs, small business owners, individuals, and other non-profit organizations, especially those who were affected by natural disasters.

Cowell said the U.S. Department of the Treasury helped fund the money for the loans. "There's no limit on the amount for our programs since this money comes directly from the Treasury Department. There's a limit to how much they can use to employ personnel and keep our operations here but as far as money to the people who need it, there's no allocation."

She said that EID loans are not only for businesses that suffered physical damage,

but those which also suffered economically. "This is a loan for businesses that may not have any physical damage but they were affected economically since the tourists were not here. So, they are not making the usual money that they make in this season of the year."

"They can apply for EID loans, which are for businesses that experienced a downturn in the usual revenue that they have been making due to the typhoon or any disaster. These loans would provide working capital to keep their business afloat until it picks up again"

Cowell said that SBA usually goes where the Federal Emergency Management Agency goes, especially in recovery efforts after every disaster. She added that they can refer people that were not eligible for their loans back to FEMA, which has a lot of other programs to help victims of natural disasters.

"There's the disaster unemployment insurance for people who lost their jobs because of the storm. It is not a lot of money but it will help keep you on your feet. There are a lot of information about which agency is here to help you. There are a lot of people and organizations that have come here to help. And we want to make sure everybody is fed, housed, and ready to recover."



# Seven Gold Mantis workers sue for injuries at worksite

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Seven construction workers from China is suing Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC in federal court over injuries that they allegedly sustained at the casino worksite of Imperial Pacific Resort.

The men, who allegedly paid large fees on promises of high-paying construction jobs on Saipan, were hired by Gold Mantis, which reportedly had a \$160-million agreement to build the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) Ltd.'s casino project in Garapan. They were allegedly forced to work for long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions.

Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yang, through counsel Bruce Berline, sued Gold Mantis last Monday for alleged negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The seven asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold Gold Mantis liable to pay them damages in an amount to be proven at trial. They demanded a jury trial.

*Saipan Tribune* was still trying to obtain comments from Gold Mantis as of press time yesterday.

The plaintiffs were allegedly among the Gold Mantis employees who staged numerous protests against the company in 2017 over unpaid wages.

Gold Mantis reportedly reached a settlement with the U.S. Department of Labor in which it agreed to pay millions of dollars for wage violations that occurred during these

workers' employment.

According to the complaint, Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Qingchun Xu, and Liangcai Sun began working for Gold Mantis on the casino worksite in January or February 2017. Youli Wang and Duxin Yang began working for Gold Mantis in November and December 2016, respectively.

After learning of the plaintiffs' injuries during separate accidents at the casino project worksite, Gold Mantis allegedly refused to take them to the hospital's emergency room, call for emergency medical assistance, or arrange any other form of medical attention.

Berline said Gold Mantis never compensated the plaintiffs for their injuries, and never provided them with any pay for the time that they were unable to work.

In Tianming Wang's case, Berline said that, in the evening of March 17, 2017, the plaintiff was cutting a long piece of metal with a torch at the construction site.

Berline said the sparks produced by Wang's cutting work ignited a substance in a nearby overturned barrel. The substance in the barrel exploded and a flame shot out of the barrel, engulfing Wang's lower left leg.

The fire and explosion incinerated Wang's pant leg and caused burns on his lower left leg.

Berline said Gold Mantis officials told Wang that, because he was working on Saipan illegally, he could be arrested if he went to the hospital.

Instead of arranging any form of medical attention, Berline said, Gold Mantis transported the worker back to

the dormitory and left him to tend to his injuries himself.

Wang was unable to work after his injury. He allegedly spent hundreds of dollars of his own money to purchase medication to address his injury and pain.

In Dong Han's case, on March 17, 2017, he was loading heavy metal pipes with other workers when the stack of pipes shifted.

The pipes crushed Han's pinky on his right hand, causing severe pain, swelling, and bruising. Hang was allegedly unable to work for some time after.

With respect to Yongjun Meng's situation, he was allegedly recruited as a construction worker, but Gold Mantis transferred him to kitchen duty in February 2017. Berline said Meng was not provided with any training for this new position.

In March 2017, Meng and two other kitchen workers were loading a vat of soup onto a vehicle for transport to the construction site. As the workers were lifting the vat into the vehicle, the hot soup allegedly spilled onto Meng, causing severe burns to his left hand and left leg.

Gold Mantis allegedly told Meng not to go to the hospital because of his undocumented status.

Meng went to a clinic, where he was given medicine for the burn. He allegedly purchased a cream from a supermarket to ease his pain on multiple occasions, costing him hundreds of dollars.

Berline said Meng was un-

able to work for months after his injury due to the pain.

As for Qingchun Xu's claim, he was allegedly required to work a shift lasting a full day on several occasions and then return to work roughly eight hours later. On March 30, 2017, Xu was working at the casino worksite, moving heavy pieces of stone. Xu and another worker were using ropes to lift a piece of stone up the stairs. However, the stone was too heavy and fell onto Xu's left lower leg.

Berline said Xu went to a small medical clinic on his own and paid for the costs himself.

In Liangcai Sun's case, on Jan. 26, 2017, while working in what is now the lobby of the casino, he and another employee

were transporting large heavy boxes when one of the box fell onto Sun's left hand, smashing his index finger. The injury caused a partial amputation of his finger.

Berline said the company's supervisor instead told Sun to go home and rest. Sun bought some medicine and a bandage but, due to the pain, Sun went on his own to the Marianas Medical Center, where he was required to go back for numerous appointments and was told to consult a hand surgeon. Berline said Sun paid hundreds of dollars of his own money for the consultation alone. Sun was unable to afford the suggested X-ray for his hand. He was unable to work after the injury.

Berline said a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center, told Sun that he needed to consult a surgeon con-

cerning the possible need to amputate the tip of his index finger. Upon Sun's return to China, medical providers there told him that he requires further surgery. Berline said Gold Mantis never compensated Sun for his injury, his inability to work, or his medical expenses, which reached over \$1,000.

In Youli Wang's case, on Jan. 20, 2017, while he was loading beams of steel onto a piece of plywood, the plywood snapped, sending the load of steel and the workers falling to the ground. This caused the steel pieces to shift, smashing Youli Wang's left hand, fracturing his left ring finger. Youli Wang's fingernail was torn completely off of his finger.

Berline said when Youli Wang was finally brought (not by Gold Mantis) to CHC many months after the accident, the physician confirmed the fracture of his finger and that the fingernail was now growing into his hand.

With respect to Duxin Yang's claim, in mid-December 2016, he was at the casino worksite moving heavy pieces of plater. While moving a large piece along the floor, it fell over and crushed the middle finger on his right hand. Berline said several weeks after the accident, Yang went to CHC because he was still suffering from his badly injured finger.

Berline said Gold Mantis breached its duty by failing to provide a safe worksite and safe working conditions, comply with federal government regulations concerning workplace safety, and appropriate equipment to complete the tasks.

"Gold Mantis' conduct constitutes gross negligence,

and/or a reckless and/or malicious and/or willful, wanton disregard of plaintiffs' rights, wellbeing, or safety," the lawyer said.

Berline said Imperial Pacific's construction site had an injury incident rate above the national average. There were safety violations in plain sight, he said, and employees received neither adequate training nor protective equipment.


Rather than seek to improve conditions on the worksite, Berline said, Imperial Pacific and its contractors sought to conceal the severity of the problem from government authorities, medical providers, and any other party that might hold them accountable.

Imperial Pacific had denied the allegations before. The company also previously stated that it "denounces in the strongest terms harboring of illegal workers by some of its contractors and subcontractors and will continue to work with authorities in the amicable resolution of issues."

Not only did Gold Mantis refuse to take the injured workers to the hospital, Berline said, but in order to keep hidden their own illegal practices, also threatened plaintiffs that they risked being arrested if they sought medical attention on their own.

Berline said Gold Mantis employed roughly 500 construction workers for the casino project, including plaintiffs.

In March 2017, Berline said, after federal government authorities began investigating contractors on the project, Gold Mantis abandoned its workers on Saipan. He said Gold Mantis' managers and supervisors returned to China while plaintiffs and their co-workers were left unpaid and without food and water.



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**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-02**  
**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-03**  
**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-04**  
**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-05**  
**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-06**


The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-19 is **December 05, 2018**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 09, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**Tinian International Airport**  
**"Car Rental Concessions"**  
**CPA-RFP-003-19**  
**Request for Proposals**  
for:  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-07**  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-08**  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-09**


The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-003-19 is **December 05, 2018**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 09, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
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**Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport**  
**"Car Rental Concessions"**  
**CPA-RFP-004-19**  
**Request for Proposals**  
for:  
**CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-10**  
**CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-11**  
**CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-12**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport ("Car Rental Concessions"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-19 is **December 05, 2018**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 09, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director



# Torres bats for closer cooperation with region's leaders

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who has been elected as chairman of the Pacific Basin Development Council during a meeting in Hawaii last week, wants to forge stronger ties with other Pacific leaders who are members of the Western Governors Association.

The PBDC is a non-profit organization composed of governors of the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the

CNMI, Guam, and the State of Hawaii. A board manages the group, which aims to further economic and social development of Pacific islands.

Torres said he has already met with Hawaii Gov. David Y. Ige, and has spoken with Gov. Lolo Letalu Matalasi Moliga of American Samoa and Guam governor-elect Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero to map out PBDC's projects.

In his talks with Ige, Torres said he and the Hawaii governor have talked about re-

vamping the organization and the Pacific region's development—the same subject of his talks with Guam's Leon Guerrero. He said they intend to pursue this subject when they meet again at the National Governors Association meeting in February.

Torres said he looks forward to working with these elected leaders so they could address the economic issues and other concerns that affect the lives of the people of their constituencies.

The NGA, founded in 1908, is a non-partisan organization composed of the 55 U.S. states, territories, and commonwealths. They will be holding their winter meeting from Feb. 22 to 25 in Washington, D.C.

Torres also welcomed the electoral victories of Ige, Leon Guerrero, and Moliga. "Now that we have four years to go, it is a good opportunity for us to look at our mutual interest to benefit our region. We're going to look at how we can

benefit economically and socially here in the Pacific."

"One of the things that we're looking at is obviously economic viability. We plan to have early clearance, where tourists from Japan can clear Japan as they enter Saipan and others, and to make sure that they will travel safely. We're going to sit down and discuss more and make adjustments when we meet."

Torres said in a previous statement that the coming years would showcase the

region's importance. "The beauty of the Pacific and PBDC will be critical for all our islands to continue the work of supporting greater standards of living for our people."

The U.S. states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming are the other WGA members.

## Skymark, Access donate for Marianas recovery

To aid with recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu, Skymark Airlines has donated ¥3,000,000 (\$26,661) and Access, Inc. has donated ¥1,000,000 (\$8,885)—sums that Marianas Visitors Authority intends to turn over to Karidat Social Services.

The two companies made the donations at the MVA general membership meeting on Dec. 14, 2019, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Skymark Airlines will be-

gin direct flights from Japan to the Marianas in 2019. Access, Inc. is the MVA's representative office in Japan.

The MVA is currently accepting public donations in Japan for the #MarianasSTRONG recovery campaign.

"We want to extend our sincere gratitude to our friends and associates in Japan for their generous donations to the people of the Marianas and for remembering us during this difficult time," said MVA man-



Skymark Airlines donates ¥3,000,000 to the Marianas Visitors Authority on Dec. 14, 2018, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan to aid the recovery of the Marianas from Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit the islands in October 2018.



Access, Inc. donates ¥1,000,000 to the Marianas Visitors Authority on Dec. 14, 2018, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

aging director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The Marianas is recovering faster than ex-

pected, thanks to all the support arriving from abroad and from many local organizations."

## Vega-Murrieta bids farewell and welcomes 17 new citizens



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The 17 newly naturalized citizens pose for a photo following their naturalization ceremony last Friday at the U.S District Court.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Outgoing U.S. Immigration Services officer Teresa Vega-Murrieta bid adieu to the CNMI even as she welcomed 17 newly naturalized citizens last Friday.

In her final naturalization ceremony in the Common-

wealth, Vega-Murrieta said the event was important for her as it was her last in the CNMI. "I will be leaving this beautiful island so I want to thank each and everyone of you...here in this court, it is an honor serving you as a federal employee," she said.

The new U.S. citizens were

Maria Ruby Cruz Acosta, Alfredo Andrada Acosta Jr., Agnes Endaya Camacho, Srinapa Chueasakul Eitz, Rosana Celeste Encio, Ana Lisa Umbao Gallego, Arlyne Galang Guanco, Xiaodan Jiang, Jocelyn Ong Mallari, Yolanda Hernandez Postrado, Ioulia Kim Safer, Christine Anneliese

Schroeder, Richard Gorospe Soriano, Ferdinand Reforma Travilla, Tanapon Unsa, Jaime Saiki, and Milagro Saiki.

They were originally from Russia, Germany, China, Thailand, Peru, and the Philippines.

Vega-Murrieta did not only give the motion to accept the new citizens; she also served

as the group's guest speaker. She expressed pride for all those who were naturalized last Friday. "I know many of you have been here many years as contract workers, and I know some of the things and situation that you had to endure...you left your home, country and family to

have a better life, and to financially support your family back home. I know it is hard, but you have accomplished a goal and you have achieved a lot. You should be very proud of yourselves because I know I am very proud of each one of you."

Vega-Murrieta encouraged the new citizens to practice their responsibilities as U.S. citizens.

"We who are born in the U.S. often take our liberties for granted. Our attitude is that we are just entitled, but we are not. We need to respect our history and our government and all that it entails. We need to perform our civic duties like serve on a jury if called upon, and if we want to see change, any kind of change, we need to vote [and] exercise that right," she said.

Vega-Murrieta was born and raised in Texas and started her career in federal service in 1981. In 2012, she was detailed to Saipan temporarily before being assigned permanently in 2016.

"In attaining the greatest honor this country has to give, the honor of U.S. citizenship, we have all won the lottery," she said.

District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy administered the oath to the new Americans.

Kennedy encouraged the new U.S. citizens to "choose to focus on what we share in common, and celebrate the differences rather than fear the differences among us."



# Man in meth lab case found positive for 'ice' use

A man who is out of prison while awaiting his sentencing in connection with his role in a clandestine laboratory that made crystal methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan, was summoned yesterday to the federal court after he allegedly tested positive for "ice" twice.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy issued the summons after the U.S. Probation office reported that Rick Urumellog Omar Jr. tested positive last Nov. 29 and Dec. 11 for using "ice."

Omar was summoned to appear in court last Tuesday, to explain why his release should not be revoked.

Omar, also known as Boboy, was released last April 2 pending trial on some conditions. Last May, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine, and manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine on premises where a child is present and resides. The offenses carry a total maximum penalty of not more

than 40 years imprisonment.

Omar's sentencing is currently set for Feb. 27, 2019.

U.S. probation officer Gregory F. Arriola said that Omar tested positive for "ice" use last Nov. 29. When confronted with the results, Omar denied using any illicit substances, Arriola said. Omar eventually admitted finding a small bag that

contained the drugs that he previously left behind in his room.

Arriola said that during a random drug test last Dec. 11, Omar was again positive for "ice" use Omar first denied using "ice" but later admitted smoking it last Dec. 9.

Omar's co-defendants are Vincent David Cabrera Jr., Eugene Blas Repeki Jr., and

Sidney Capelle Kani.

According to the indictment, Omar, Cabrera, Repeki, and Kani conspired to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine from July 1, 2017, to Feb. 25, 2018.

The four allegedly conspired to possess equipment, chemicals, and materials, which may be used to manufacture meth-

amphetamine such as pseudoephedrine, lithium batteries, cold packs, iodized salt, Iye, lighter fluid, water bottles, and coffee filters.

Last Feb. 1, Repeki and Kani allegedly manufactured and distributed "ice" on premises in which a child is present and resides.

Last Feb. 8, Repeki and

Omar allegedly manufactured and distributed "ice" on premises in which a child is present and resides.

Last Feb. 24 through Feb. 25, Cabrera allegedly rented and maintained a room at the Saipan Vegas Resort for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, or using "ice." *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## 257 graduate from UOG in commencement rites



A group of master's degree graduates give the Trident symbol prior to receiving their degrees.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

## Health forum to focus on sexual health

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health Services would be hosting a Gay Men's Health Forum on Dec. 20 2018, beginning at 5:30pm at the Aqua Resort Club.

According to CHCC, 51 percent of all human immunodeficiency virus infections, or HIV infections, in 2017 were acquired through men-on-men sex, also referred to as MSM.

HIV is a lentivirus, a type of virus that causes deadly diseases as time passes. HIV eventually develops into Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, or AIDS, and the speed with which it turns into AIDS depends on the treatment of HIV.

"The goal of the forum is to ask participants from the gay community to provide recommendations and insight on how to effectively reach out to men who have sex with men about their health," a CHCC statement said.

The forum will have a presentation on the health risks of men who have sex with men for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases; health recommendations from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and a demonstration of HIV rapid testing.

Seats to the forum are limited. The last day to register was yesterday. *(Erwin Encinares)*

The University of Guam conferred degrees to 257 students last Dec. 16 at its Fanuchanan 2018 Commencement Ceremony held at the UOG Calvo Field House. Crossing the stage were 199 undergraduate and 58 graduate students.

The largest number of graduates came from the UOG School of Business and Public Administration, which conferred 95 undergraduate degrees in business administration, accounting, public administration, and criminal justice and 11 graduate degrees from its Master of Public Administration and Professional Master of Business Administration programs. The School of Education graduated the largest number of graduate students conferring 35 master's degrees.

"My experience at UOG was fun and exciting and full of knowledge," said Alyssa Talabong, who graduated with a bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. "You strive to do your best, and in the end, it is worthwhile." Her next step is to find a job while also pursuing a master's degree.

### UOG president

In his first commencement ceremony as president of UOG, Thomas W. Krise noted



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Julian Aguon, human rights lawyer and founder of Blue Ocean Law, delivers the commencement address at the University of Guam's Fanuchanan 2018 Commencement Ceremony.

how this class would be taking a place in the university's 65-year history of providing a place to teach and discover new knowledge and to share it with the community.

"I thank all of the graduates for learning with us, for challenging us to think in new and different ways, and for your commitment to making the world a better place for all of us and for those who come after us," he said.

### Valedictorian

Mia Sara Dizon Madlambayan, who graduated as a double major in psychology and sociology, was named class valedictorian. She encouraged her

fellow graduates to not compare themselves to others but to pursue their goals on their own timeline.

"In the words of Theodore Roosevelt, 'Comparison is the thief of joy,'" she said. "Instead, take life at your own pace. Believe that everything that you do is for a reason. Every experience you have, whether good or bad, shapes who you are."

Madlambayan plans to take the GRE and to pursue graduate school on her path to working in the social psychology field.

### Commencement speaker

Graduates listened intently as the keynote speaker, Julian



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Mia Sara Dizon Madlambayan, valedictorian of the University of Guam's Fanuchanan Class of 2018, pose with UOG president Thomas W. Krise, left, and senior vice president Anita Borja Enriquez, right.

Aguon, a human rights lawyer, founder of Blue Ocean Law, and lecturer at the university, recounted stories of injustice across the world.

"There is a language heist afoot in this country that is threatening our ability to show up for each other and for ourselves. We are losing our capacity to confront the injustice that is literally everywhere around us," he said.

In his work at his law firm, Blue Ocean Law, he and his team have advanced the rights and interests of island communities, providing guidance for them to better protect their natural resources and to challenge multinational corporations.

"This is what it looks like when we are able to overcome speechlessness, find our fighting words, and step into the sun. We share the sunlight," he said.

He gifted every graduate with a copy of his book, *Overcoming Speechlessness*, saying, "May you not only find your fighting words, but your fighting spirit, too. Our broken world is waiting."

### Photos and video

The ceremony was streamed live and is viewable on UOG's Facebook page. Photos from the ceremony will also be available for download this week at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/uogtriton/albums>. *(UOG)*



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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## Will Santa's sleigh be autonomous next Christmas?

By JENNIFER HUDDLESTON SKEES and TRACE MITCHELL  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

For those of us who will soon head over the river and through the woods to meet up with family, the holidays mean travel. Last year, nearly 100 million Americans hit the road during the season and the number only seems to rise each year. 34 percent of people find it stressful. Travel can also be time-consuming and dangerous, taking some fun out of a joyous time.

Luckily, the latest and greatest tech isn't limited to what's under the tree. Driverless vehicles are poised to make many of our travel headaches a part of Christmas past—and sooner than you think.

Just take a look at what's happening this December alone. Waymo, a leading player in the autonomous vehicle market, launched the first driverless taxi service and GM is focusing on similar technology. And just in time for cold winter days, Elon Musk recently announced that the next Tesla upgrade would enhance its "Summon" feature so that your vehicle can come to you so long as it's within your sight.

What once seemed as far away and fantastical as Santa's workshop is now rapidly becoming reality. These advancements will be a wonderful gift for holiday travelers. Driverless cars will help reduce winter woes like fighting traffic or finding the best route to our destinations, lessening the pain of long or crosstown road trips by letting everyone simply enjoy the ride.

Driverless cars will also make it easier for senior or disabled citizens who can't drive on their own and who struggle with day-to-day logistics like getting groceries or going Christmas shopping. Groups like AARP and the National Foundation for the Blind have partnered with driverless car innovators to promote the increased independence and safety these vehicles provide. In fact, a driverless car may even be able to bring the store to you, as retailers like Walmart and Kroger experiment with autonomous grocery delivery.

Most importantly, driverless cars can help ensure that everyone makes it home for the holidays safely. More than 94 percent of auto accidents are caused by human error. While the technology isn't perfect yet, it's far better than most people realize—and the vehicles don't get drowsy, drunk or distracted. They could save the lives of many people who suffer from the consequences of bad choices made after holiday parties or on New Year's Eve.

Even more of this technology is right around the corner. GM's semi-autonomous Cadillac Super Cruise driver assist technology will be available in all GM models by 2020. Families in Waymo's early rider program in Arizona have already experienced the day-to-day advantages driverless vehicles provide. More companies have announced pilot programs in a range of cities from Washington, D.C., to Frisco, Texas. It won't be long before they're widely available for Americans to go dashing through the snow across the country.

The policy front is also full of good cheer. The Department of Transportation just finished taking comments on its recent "Autonomous Vehicles 3.0" guidance document, which



## Finding the heart of Christmas in a nursing home visit

At this time of year, many Americans become deeply conscious of essential living: love of family, enjoyment of friends, the value of "quality time" and the joys of simply being alive. Especially in these trying political times, many people of all faiths now fervently attempt to gain deeper sustenance and satisfaction from religious holidays. To appreciate life's blessings in the midst of turmoil, we will all just try harder.

Maybe we should try less.

Often, and ironically, less can be more. Miraculously more. With only a little oil, the lamps of the Maccabees burned brightly for eight days, the miracle of Hanukkah. On Christmas, a Divine Child was born in a manger—of all places—surrounded by farm animals and worried refugee parents. In these instances, less proved to be more.

Simply trying harder to celebrate life and its meaning can produce incongruities. This year we may stretch our budgets buying Phones, or AirPods or VR headsets as gifts. But trying harder can lead to excess. It can obscure the heart of the matter.

The heart of Christmas is complicated; it is also amazing in its simplicity. Remember the old phrase, "Peace on Earth, good will toward men"? (Nowadays it has been translated and re-translated away.) Implicit in this phrase is the hope that humanity can live within the boundaries of its better nature. Accepting our better natures juxtaposes uncertainty, frailty and fear alongside the hope, the strength and the sustenance that we humans can and do give to each other daily.

It is certainly possible to find the heart of Christmas in various unexpected places. I found it in a seemingly most unlikely place, and I recommend that place to you.

I speak of a nursing home. According to all the statistics I receive from insurance companies and groups like AARP, it is a virtual certainty that, at some time in the future, we will either ourselves be confined there for several years or we will be visiting a loved one there. In our world, nursing home residents are the most marginal of all the living—almost ignored, almost forgotten, except on the holidays.

In the nursing home the great themes of life and death, decline and sustenance are played out every day. Here is where essential unadorned humanity reposes. Here every minute can be an eternity of quality time. Every occasion can be a celebration of life in the valley of the shadows. In a nursing home, every day can be the day before or the day after a personal tragedy.

Odd isn't it, that in a place whence almost no residents ever return, there should be so much potential for life, living and giv-

By **SILVIO LACCETTI**  
Tribune News Service

*Silvio Laccetti is a retired professor of history at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J. This essay is revised and updated from an essay published in his last book, An American Commentary (2014), a collection of his editorial essays.*



ing. Every day is Christmas when tomorrow may never come.

### A PERSONAL LESSON

I learned all of this firsthand a few years ago. This discovery was dramatically embodied in a Christmas Eve visit to my mother who had been confined in a nursing home for several years.

It being the time of visitation, my mother and I journeyed to the top floor for our usual private visit in the social room that was decorated for the season. Now at this time there were gathered six or seven people, (patients and their older relatives, not a young person to be found) engaged in their own Christmas visits. We all acknowledged one another, but did not conjoin our visits.

It being Christmas, I decided to play the piano, a few of the traditional religious carols. But instead of my playing the piano, I took my mother's hand and began playing "Silent Night" with her frail index finger. We sang. It was soft, not very tuneful. Surprisingly we were joined by the voices of all the others from various parts of the large room. Softly we sang our songs united in our desire to celebrate the season and the good news of Christ's birth. Eight or nine frail worried people joined together in a harmony of the soul.

Upon hearing this out-of-tune, out-of-phase impromptu concert, the activities director emerged from her office and asked if we'd like to have some real music played on tapes to listen to and sing along with. Amazingly, everyone said no. We were all satisfied with our own performance, our own offering to the season.

A poor thing it may have been, but ours it was, original, authentic, communal and alive. This "little" was, for all of us, much preferred to the "more," which records, tapes or brass bands could have brought.

For me, that night remains one of my brightest Christmas memories and the most unexpected one.

Less was certainly more that Christmas and we didn't have to try hard to find it. This season, I hope others will find, unexpectedly, in some unlikely way, the heart of Christmas.



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

Ma'tut Pinayon-ta

I taya' kandet fuetsau ha tulaika todun pinayonta, di-riamente. Kulan hit pa'gu i manug ni debi tafañgahulu' gi troñku antes de homhum.

Oran deskansog-hu kase 'las onse dispues de manaitai pettinenti asuntu 'sino mañgge-yu' attikulun gaseta. Pa'gu, tra-biha 'las sais imedia ya esta-yu' uma'asun para bai fan rikohe mugu'. Dios tiampare!

Diberas tat si Yutu ti hana' atlibes gi otdinariu na kinalamten-ta. Ni television taya' 'nai siña tatane' ñaihon hit. Dimas, esta sessu mamfuñg-yu' pution 'an pueñge. Hu tuñgu' lokue' manu 'nai gaige i pution orasion 'an chatagmag.

Gi taftaf oga'an hu nañgga i primet ruplanu ginen Japon para u tunug kulan mohon iyog-hu. Komprendiyun na mampus marib-aha i numeron bisita siha pot destrosiun pagyu. Puede chadeg areglau tatte gi otdinariu na operasion.

■ ■ ■

**Bilen:** Un' sunidun Noche Buena ni sessu hu kanta pot un' soñgsoñg giya Bilen (O' Little Town of Bethlehem). Boni-tu tunadaña.

Patte ilelegña, "I esperansa (hope) yan mina`añau deste antes empas na pueñge". Empas pot mafañagu i lahen Yuus!

I pution ni man-ina ma'lag gi hilu' bilen mali'e gi todun tanu'. Todun lokue' humuñgog pot mafañagon i Niñu makaikai' siha para uma-aligau i Nanalibren niha. Ni unu sumeha gi hilu' espe-ransa. Hana'e hit lokue' metgut na sensia fumana' mina`ñau-ta pot satbasion.

■ ■ ■

**Tinayuyot:** Apmam de hu guadog haf' i mas ma'gas na tina-yuyot para hita ni mañgilisyanu 'sino katoliku. Hu soda' na i "Tatan Mame".

Segun i tinige' San Lukas, mafaisen si Jesukristo ni man-apostoles para u fan finanague man-manayuyot. Ilegña i Saina tutuhun gi "Tatan Mame". Huna' tinatitiye este ni Si Yuus Un' Gine'gue Maria".

Sumen namagem i siñienten kinententu giya hagu 'nai dia-riun una' patte espirituat gi ha'animu. Guiya este i hu fanana'an añklan linala'. 'An taigue sa' ti un' pega gi sagaña pues libianu

botimu disgrasiau duranten mattiempu.

■ ■ ■

**Noche:** Mattu si Yutu de para u disaregla magof na celebra-sion Noche Buena. Lau ni este ti chinema' i mañgilisyanu gi selebrasion mafañagun i Niñu. Petmanenti este na patte gi kut-turan relihion-ta!

Siempre ta prepara petta-ta gi ha'anen Noche Buena para ta konduse halum i finattun i Niñu Jesus. Tai atparehu este na bendision ginen i uniku yan solu Nanalibreta.

■ ■ ■

**Boñelus:** Antes i kinisechan dagu maguleg para boñelus. Mapega este gi fina' kanastra gi papa' sanmena na bintana para usun maseha haye. Bes enkuando mas sumuha i natibu ginen tradisionat na modun linala'. Ayu na hasan tali'e boñelus dagu soluke mamahan i familia gi metkau. \*\*\*

Hu e'ekuñgog un' bonitun kantan amiguhu. Gi uttimu ilegña, "Chule'yu', todun-yu'". Komprendiyun na linaisen ni propiu na palabra yan usuña. I kosas machuchule', i tautau makokone'. Siña un' chule'yu' para Tanapag?

■ ■ ■

I otro ilegña na likidu-gue' pot tiha diñgu mañainaña. Kase mas propiu i "uniku" na palabra. Likidu ha nesessita esplikasion. Taigue este gi kanta. Mauleg in' atan tinige' mimiya pot klaru na finu' Chamorro! Mas adelantau siempre animun todun chumoneg kuttura-ta petpetuamente.

■ ■ ■

**Amsun:** Hu soda' un' tiahu gi chepchup unai sige ume-am-sun. Matachoñg-yu' para bai li'e haf' ha guaguadog ginen i inai. Dispues de ha rikohe mediu batde ha birague' para iya siha.

Ha sumai gi hanum tula noche esta i sigiente dia. Ha katdu ya hana' chageyu' gi fina' tason dikiki. Paire na magahet na katdu! Namanman i anchun pinasensia gi ban-dan preparasion.

■ ■ ■

**Gigau:** Dos amigu kumompanian gigau para mantension familia. Kada 'las kuattru gi talo'ane manhuyuñg i peskadot masugun i guihan halum gi gigau. Makone' haf' humalum ya

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/ her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*



man-apatte.

Uttimoña, unu gi dos mafattu 'an chatagmag manrikohe gui-han sin u patte i otro. Ai i che'chu' pitbetserias. Mauleg na tini-tuhun lau magpu' inadisgustu. Lastima!

■ ■ ■

**Relasion:** Un' palabra ni sessu i mañaina-ta mapoñ-ga giya hita pot che' chu' echu tautau. Gaige guine na mau'udai asuntun "relasion" yan i prohimu-mu. Sineyu' mañaina i inafamauleg.

Magahet na dañkulu na bintaha i mi-atuñgu'. Todun pot todun siempre u fan mattu gi 'nai tinetpi hau chinatsaga. Siha mismu kumonduse mapula' problema para un' siña komontinua otdina-riun na hinanau ha'ane.

■ ■ ■

Huli'e giya Los Angeles komunidat Chamoru ni umadapta sensian champada. 'An mamahan hau asut na haiyira' pues debi u gai iyu lokue'. Humanau ya ha fahan! Este na sensia chagu' yan kustumbre natibu. Ina'ayuda muna' likidu i Chamorro gi halum tautau isla. Bidan laña' mamahan haiyira' ya ti chichipa si pindeha! Dios mihu!

■ ■ ■

Ilegña un' prohimu na para u falag i zoo para u li'e haf' pus-turaña i saru'. Ilegña i otro na taya' presisu. "Atan hau gi espehus sa' siempre umasoda' hamyu. Dispues agu'ot kanai ya in' asañ-gane, 'long time no see'." A' Saina!

Felis Noche Buena para todun! Si Iku yan Familia.

The blame game in the death of a 7-year-old migrant girl

A 7-year-old Guatemalan girl who wanted nothing more than to grow up in America died after trying to make it across our border.

Everyone agrees it is a tragedy. But no one knows where to go from here.

Our hearts break whenever a child dies senselessly. We become so emotionally entwined in sadness and anger that we are unable to think clearly about the circumstances of the death.

When there are political implications, we need someone to blame. So we retreat to the corner where we have always felt most comfortable, the place where years of polarization have told us we belong.

By now, each of us has figured out where we stand on the issue of Donald Trump's border wall and his administration's policies regarding migrants seeking to enter the United States. We either believe that a wall is a reasonable demand in order to keep people from entering our country illegally. Or we believe the whole idea of building a wall is divisive and ridiculous.

The explosive political issue became more volatile with the news last week of Jackelin Caal's death from dehydration and shock, days after U.S. Border Patrol agents picked up her and her father in a remote, mountainous stretch of New Mexico desert.

We don't yet know all of the details. What we do know is that the child, traveling with her 29-year-old father, was among more than 160 migrants taken into custody on Dec. 6 and bused to a border detention center 90 miles away.

The group is among thousands of migrants who have made their way from Central America in recent months, fleeing violence and economic despair, hoping to gain asylum in the U.S. Many of them, however, have been detained in Mexico, due to strict U.S. entry policies. Most of them will never be granted asylum.

The administration's initial response to Jackelin's death was to place responsibility solely on the parents, blaming them for

choosing to do whatever they could to give their child a shot at a life better than she ever could have dreamed of in Guatemala.

"The agents involved are deeply affected and empathize with the father over the loss of his daughter," U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said in a statement. "We cannot stress enough the dangers posed by traveling long distances, in crowded transportation, or in the natural elements through remote desert areas without food, water and other supplies."

Certainly, Jackelin's father knew that traveling through such rough terrain for days without adequate food and water would be challenging for anyone, especially a child. But he must have believed that the benefits of taking a chance on reaching America far outweighed any reasons for turning back or not trying at all.

Maybe he weighed his options and decided that remaining in Guatemala would have caused even greater suffering for his daughter, maybe even death, sooner or later. Maybe he thought that risking her life was the only way to save her. But perhaps his dreams of America were too optimistic.

Those of us who believe that our country has been heartless and closed-minded toward migrants fleeing Central America are quick to blame the government.

America is ill-equipped to care for such an influx of immi-grants all at once. Our country is too politically divided to develop a comprehensive and equitable policy to address the mi-grant crisis. The border detention centers are filthy, unsuitable and, some insist, unsafe. But we cannot properly deal with the social, economic and psychological problems migrants face at our borders because we have never figured out how to address those same issues among many Americans who were born here.

At this point, there is no reason to think that Border Patrol agents didn't do all they could to help Jackelin. Perhaps they are right in suggesting that she would have died in the desert had the agents not taken her into custody.

By DAHLEEN GLANTON  
Chicago Tribune

When the child arrived at the Border Patrol station, she wasn't breathing. Her temperature was 105.7. Medical personnel revived her and airlifted her to a hospital in El Paso, Texas, where she later died.

Others point to the Trump administration's militarization of the border, in which the president sent troops to confront the mi-grants who tried to enter illegally. Such actions, some insist, do nothing to stop migrants from coming to America. It only forces them to take more drastic means to get here.

History has proven this to be true.

From the pilgrims who arrived in the early 1600s in search of religious freedom to the Europeans who followed centuries later in search of economic opportunity, immigrants have always risked their lives to come to America.

Though our country is less welcoming than it once was, people still would rather face death on the road to America than live in places where there are no opportunities to thrive. Regardless of whether we build a wall or not, that will never change.






So when a child dies en route to freedom, we must not blame the child. We shouldn't try to thrust all of the blame onto the par-ents, either. And in this case, at least, we cannot entirely blame our government.

Perhaps Jackelin's death is no one's fault. And perhaps it is all of ours.

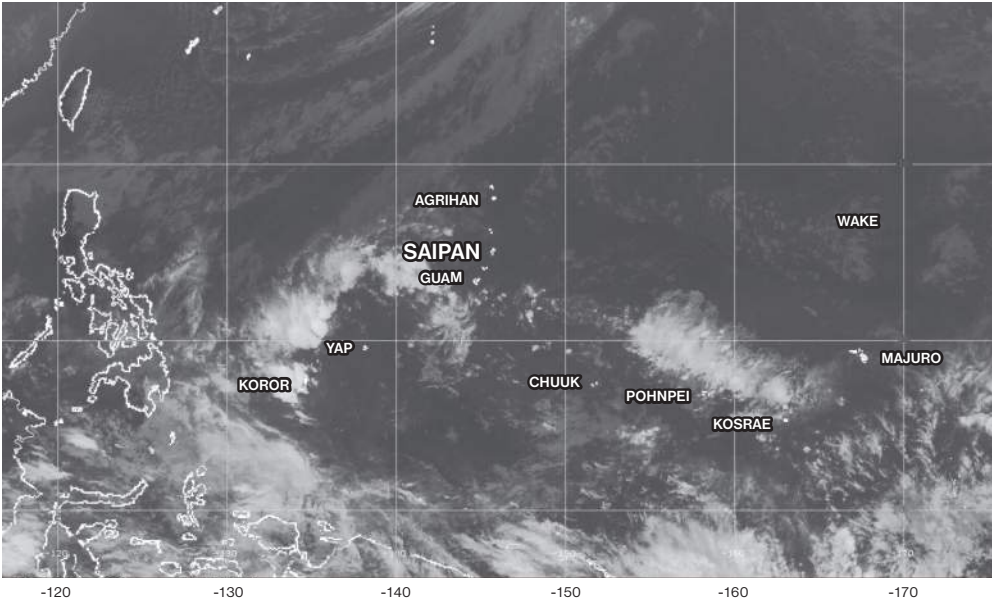


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



### PICTURE TIME: 7:22 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Another disturbance will approach the Marianas from the east today into tonight. However the latest guidance (especially the GFS) has backed off the showers for today and keeps most of the activity south of Guam. There was some evidence of this occurring back to yesterday. The ECMWF indicates some additional showers, but not enough to support scattered. There are some hints that there could be a period of scattered showers overnight tonight, but confidence was not high enough to include in the forecast at this time. Based on the model data, satellite imagery and radar, decreased shower coverage to isolated today and tonight. The best chances for scattered tonight would likely be for Guam.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	70° / 61°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	43° / 23°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	75° / 70°	
Honolulu	Sunny	77° / 68°	
London	Showers	48° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	65° / 50°	
Manila	Cloudy	90° / 75°	
Melbourne	Showers	72° / 57°	
Miami	Showers	77° / 73°	
New York	Cloudy	47° / 34°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	54° / 45°	
Paris	Sunny	50° / 39°	
Busan	Cloudy	54° / 46°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	60° / 48°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 47°	
Seoul	Sunny	46° / 25°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	54° / 39°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	47° / 35°	



### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:16 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.51	
10:32 AM	LOW TIDE	0.87	
4:32 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.96	
11:42 PM	LOW TIDE	0.01	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Thursday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:50 AM	2:54 PM
Thursday	-	3:44 AM	3:40 PM
Friday	-	4:42 AM	4:31 PM
Saturday	-	5:43 AM	5:27 PM
Sunday	-	6:46 AM	6:28 PM

#### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4	UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – temporarily suspended</b>				<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – temporarily suspended</b>			
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>				<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
<i>Temporarily suspended:</i>				<i>Temporarily suspended:</i>			
TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4	TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5	TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily	TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
				7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b>				<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b>			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)</b>				<b>HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN</b>			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b>				<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b>			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – resume from Nov 27</b>				<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b>			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b>				<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b>			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily





# Christmas Unwrapped

‘tis the  
season  
for giving

SAIPAN TRIBUNE SUPPLEMENT

DECEMBER 19, 2018



# Stretch that dollar

By BEA CABRERA  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Having a limited budget for Christmas is not a problem. After all, it is the season for counting your blessings. This is also about being smart with your money, about stretching those dollars for your Christmas gifts.

Here is a list of shops in the CNMI that offer big sales and discounts so you can breeze through the holidays without breaking the bank.



Lollipops sales associate and cashier Charlotte Castro shows off the array of toys that are available in the store.

BEA CABRERA

## Lollipops

This year, Lollipops in Garapan offers a selection of affordable toys for those on a tight budget and for those buying in bulk for many children. Charlotte Castro, sales associate and cashier at Lollipops, said that their store is the perfect kid's store. "We have been getting a lot of shoppers...because we have a 50-percent off section for selected toys and clothing."

"Another promo that started last Friday and will run for seven days is the 20-percent off in the entire clothing department," she added.

This week, Lollipops is from 9am to 9pm and on open Monday to Saturday Sunday from 10am to 6pm.



Girl Talk sales associate Natalie Babauta stand by the clothes that are available in different designs in their store that young girls will surely like.

BEA CABRERA

## Girl Talk

Girl Talk on Micro Beach Road, which caters to girls ages 7-16, has a special sale on "dressy" clothing.

"Starting Dec. 14 to Dec. 20, there will be 20-percent discount on these types of clothes, according to sales associate Natalie Babauta.

For a budget of just \$100, Girl Talk customers can get a lot of items already as they have shirts that are priced at \$8. With the sale, the price can go down to \$6, Babauta added.

## Hot Deals

Hot Deals in Garapan has had an ongoing promotion that started right after Super Typhoon Yutu.

"Our sale started on Oct. 27 to help the community replenish items they lost or got destroyed during the typhoon," said owner Arthur Miron. "We have 10-20-percent discount on selected clothing. Aside from this, some clothes may have a special markdown."

"For shoes, we have 10 percent discount on selected items and some have markdown prices. For electronics, we have 10 percent off on 32" TVs. For selected phones, [there is a] 10 to 20 percent off," he said.

The store does have a Facebook page but Miron said he does not post everything there "to encourage people to actually come here to the store so that they can see and probably touch the products."

## Triple J Truckload Store

It's raining toys at Triple J Truckload Store, with its 20 percent off on all toys. The store is open from Wednesday to Friday from 11am to 8pm; on Saturdays, from 9am to 8pm; and on Sundays, from 11am to 6pm. For more information, call (670) 322-0430. They will also be open on Christmas Eve, from 11am to 5pm.

## Joeten

Joeten Susupe is celebrating Christmas with a splash. Ladies dresses, blouses and skirts, and girl's dresses go for 25 percent off. Girls tees are priced at only \$6.99. The men also get 25-percent discount on shorts and slacks and boy shirts. Household items such as rugs and linens get 25 percent off as well.

## Bali Fashion

Bali Fashion on Middle Road is giving 15-20 percent discount on most clothing, according to owner and president Shabbir Shakir.

"Our games, consoles, accessories, and other electronic items are [also] on sale until [Dec.] 31," he said.

Store hours are from 10:30am to 9pm but one week before Christmas, "we start at 10am or maybe 9:30am, depending on the customers who come early to the store," he added.

## I Love Saipan

This store knows that quality clothes does not have to be expensive. They have racks that carry clothes that cost \$1 to \$10, clothes that includes brands such as Heart & Hips, Lydelle, and Chocolate USA with discounts of up to 50-percent, and a set of clothes that include DNA Couture and Vivace that are up to 70-percent off. Sale will be ongoing until supplies last.



# Christmas gift ideas for couples

By BEA CABRERA  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Looking for special gift ideas that will make a happy couple even happier? Don't wait until the last minute. Here are some fabulous selection of Christmas gift ideas for the special couple in your life.

The **Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center** carries a variety of authentic organic health supplements, hair, skin, and beauty products. The brands include Desert Essence facial cleansers, Badger Balm lotions, and massage oils, Tints of Nature hair color and Dr. Bronner's biodegradable soaps are also now available. They currently have an ongoing promotion of 10-percent discount on selected items. Visit them at 101 Akari Building on Middle Road or call (670)233-2668.

For the couple who are pining for a relaxing body massage, the Detox Soak with Somatology Massage at the **Natural Nail Spa** is the perfect gift. For only \$35 per person, couples can enjoy a one-hour massage service that will leave you feeling renewed. Service includes heated neck wrap, 15 minutes of detox foot soak followed by a 50-minute massage. This treatment combines ancient techniques and new technology. Visit them at their new location on Middle Road across Bank of Hawaii or call 233NAIL (6245) for reservations.

For matching watches for him and her, the **Caronel Watch Center** in Garapan is the only authorized retailer of Rolex watches on island. They also carry other popular watch and sunglasses brands. For more information, call (670)233-4422 or email: cwc.saipan@dksh.com

For foodie couples, **McDonald's Arch Card** is an ideal gift. They come in \$5, \$10, \$25, and \$50 denominations. For more information, visit their branches in Garapan and Middle Road,

Various home décor items are available at **Vietnam Home Gallery** where a variety of ceramic pots and vases are on sale, including beautiful house plants which a perfect gift to enhance any holiday gathering. Customers also get to enjoy 20-percent discount on selected items.

Visit them at their new location in Chinatown and business hours are from Monday to Friday, 1pm to 6pm, and Saturday and Sunday, from 8am to 6pm.



## Holiday

# SALE

## Brabu

Pharmacy and Wellness Center

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center, LLC  
PMB 761 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950  
Email: braburx@gmail.com • Tel.: (670) 233-2668  
Business Hours:  
Monday - Friday (9am-6pm)  
Saturday (9am-1pm) • Sunday (CLOSED)

# Holiday Sale

# 20% OFF

**Vietnam**  
HOME GALLERY

*Quality ceramics and home furnishings from South East Asia*

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# Making this the season to share the

# Love

By BEA CABRERA  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Pundits believe that we find the true meaning of Christmas when we change our perspective to giving rather than just receiving. Giving our time and effort for the welfare and benefit of others and focusing on the needs of those around us sharpens the spirit of compassion.

That is the mantra of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation this holiday season, as they focus on three projects that seek to uplift the spirit of a community that is still recovering and rebuilding from Super Typhoon Yutu, which devastated Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25.

For the whole month of December, the foundation plans to collaborate with the



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres pose with their daughter.

BEA CABRERA

Department of Public Safety and Department of Fire and

Emergency Medical Services, where Santa Claus will go to

different schools aboard a fire truck and give out lots of toys.

"This is made possible by a donation from Ayuda Foundation Guam of about a thousand toys and a lot of backpacks," said first lady Diann Torres.

She also wants the participation of children in the distribution of these gifts from the the Ayuda Foundation. "We are hoping to bring certain grade level students to come out to distribute those gifts... For those who cannot make it out to our distribu-

tion places, we would still do the house-to house distributions of all the relief goods," she added.

The foundation is also partnering with the Indigenous Affairs Office and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library to have "movie nights" for people who were rendered homeless by Yutu.

"The first show was last Sunday and we will do more. ... We bring the movies out to the shelters and we will show Christmas movies to uplift their spirits a little as we would like them to appreciate what they have and know that people all over the world are thinking of them," she said.

Her wish for the community? Torres hopes that, by stirring good cheer at home, that would then spread to the community.

## Saipan Young Professionals

The Toys for Tots program, which usually benefits small children, will be extending the program to teenagers.

Saipan Young Professionals, which works with the U.S. Marine Corps in Guam to implement the Toys for Tots

program in the CNMI, has included teenagers among its recipients and not just children under the age of 12.

SYP co-chair Shane Vilanueva told *Saipan Tribune* there is a misconception that the program is only for children and toddlers. "These goes from 1-day-old all the way to 18. So, we're also looking for shirts, clothing items, headphones, and other stuff that are for young adults."

"SYP works with agencies like the Division of Youth Services and Karidat Social Services to distribute the toys. "[DYS and Karidat] tell us how many [toys and other items] they need, for what gender—male or female—and by age range."

The Toys for Tots program is led by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Saipan Young Professionals group and is taking up the Toys for Tots program of the U.S. Marine Corps to spread hope and goodwill to children in the CNMI.

The program aims to collect new, unwrapped toys in October, November, and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to children.

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# Shipping deadlines

By KELLY TYKO  
USA TODAY

Time is running out to ship your gifts and order them for guaranteed delivery by Christmas Eve.

Monday is the deadline for FedEx's ground and home delivery, while Tuesday is the deadline for UPS's most affordable delivery option, UPS 3 Day Select. The deadline for free shipping on Amazon orders also is Tuesday.

The Postal Service's deadline for its priority and first-class mail is more generous and packages need to be mailed out on Thursday.

In a statement, USPS said Dec. 17 was anticipated to be its "busiest day online with more than 8 million consumers predicted to visit usps.com for help shipping that special holiday gift."

The week through Dec. 23 also is expected to be the service's busiest week for mailing, shipping and delivery. It expects to process and deliver nearly 3 billion pieces of First-Class Mail, including greeting cards.

All three major carriers, Amazon and many retailers also offer last-minute options.

To help them make sure

your gifts get to their final destination on time—and save a little money—there are a few key shipping deadlines to pay attention to.

These are the three major carriers' recommended send-by dates for expected delivery by Dec. 25:

## U.S. Postal Service

■ Dec. 18: APO/FPO/DPO (except ZIP code 093) through Priority Mail Express

■ Dec. 20: First Class

■ Dec. 20: Priority Mail

■ Dec. 22: Priority Mail Express

## FedEx

Find rates and transit times at [www.fedex.com](http://www.fedex.com).

■ Dec. 17: Ground and home delivery

■ Dec. 19: Express Saver

■ Dec. 20: Two-day options

■ Dec. 21: Overnight options

■ Dec. 25: FedEx SameDay, FedEx SameDay City Direct and City Priority

## United Parcel Service

Calculate time and cost at [www.ups.com](http://www.ups.com).

■ Dec. 18: UPS 3 Day Select

■ Dec. 20: 2nd Day Air

■ Dec. 21: Next Day Air

■ Dec. 22: UPS On-Call Pickup for UPS Next Day Air

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# This Christmas, buy local

By BEA CABRERA

beecabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Choosing to buy local and giving them as gifts this Christmas might just be one of the best decisions you will ever make this year.

Local products are accessible, they taste great, and quality is guaranteed because products suit the environment where they are going to be used or consumed. Supporting local businesses in the CNMI will also help the community be more productive and better connected.

## Saipan Snaps

Happy memories abound with every bite of Saipan Snaps' Ginger Snaps Cookies, according to owner Jill M. Arenovski. "The company was born as a way to offer a delicious locally made product to tourists, locals, and visitors. Ginger snap cookies have an amazing connection that stirs happy memories for so many people of all ages and backgrounds," she said.

"The spiced cookies remind them of their grandma, of their childhood, or of special holiday gatherings with



Saipan Brewing Co. beer is made here on Saipan and it doesn't get any fresher than that.  
BEA CABRERA

family. My own connection is what prompted me to make this a business because every time I bake these ginger snaps, I think of my dad and how much he loved them and loved me."

Saipan Snaps are baked and delivered fresh. "They are the same cookie that I have made in my home over many years for family and friends. The colorful packaging re-

flects our island's beauty, and locally grown ginger is baked into every ginger snap," Arenovski said.

"Lots of us purchase from Amazon or other online vendors on a regular basis for items not locally available and often even for items that are locally available. By doing so, we're sending our earnings to other areas, which boosts those other econo-

Happy memories abound with every bite of Saipan Snaps' ginger snap cookies.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

mies. It's important to keep our money here in the CNMI by supporting local vendors which, in turn, will boost our own economy and will strengthen Saipan overall."

Saipan Snaps comes in two sizes: 31 grams and 90 grams. "They are an affordable stocking stuffer, as well as a great holiday gift to send to family and friends near and far. ... The colorful packaging reflects our island's beauty, and locally grown ginger is baked into every ginger snap."

The cookies are available in Shell gas stations in Puerto Rico, San Roque, and Susupe, Highway Express, DJ's Corner at Hyatt Regency Saipan, iShops at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Kanoa Resort, and at the Pacific Islands Club gift shop.

For orders, contact Arenovski at saipansnaps@gmail.com and Facebook page "Island Snaps."

## Tribe Marianas

Creating a brand that will bring urban streetwear to the islands was the vision of Tribe Marianas co-founder and creative director Rob Travilla.

"The people behind this company were born and

See LOCAL on Page 18



## Cool gadgets for the holidays

With technology making inroads into daily life, gadget use is now a need and not just a luxury. We need it for work, school, and even for extra-curricular activities. If you are looking for tech ideas and gadgets for the holidays, here are some ideas.

The latest iPhones, the iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max, are finally here. IT&E invites you to sign up for their explorer bundle and save up to \$300. Enjoy free Hulu and TFC as bonus. Get the iPhone XS Max for only \$299 (64 gigabytes) or \$399 (128 gigabytes). For more information, call (670)682-4483.

Techies who frequent the Triple J Truckload Store

will find their MaxWest Astro Phablet 7S interesting. For only \$99.95, the gadget has a quad-core processor, touchscreen, unlocked 4G dual-SIM phone/tablet, android system, has Wifi, has GPS, and is Bluetooth ready. For more information, call (670) 322-0430.

As part of their commitment, Docomo Pacific's free services in the CNMI continue through Dec. 31, 2018. If you are a subscriber traveling within Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota, you will continue to experience the freedom of always-free voice and data. For more information, visit their store in Gualo Rai Middle Road or call (670) 483-2273. (Bea Cabrera)



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EXPLORE  
YOUR  
WORLD





Just six days remain before Christmas and, if you've been naughty and still hadn't gotten around to doing your Christmas shopping, here are some deals and steals around town that are worth checking out.

For unique gifts, furniture, and home décor, **Monika's Furniture** is holding a holiday sale with 10-to-15 percent off on all items. Visit the store on Beach Road next to Hardt Eye Clinic. They are open 10am to 6pm Monday to Thursday, 10am

## Uber Christmas deals around town

to 7pm Friday to Saturday and 12pm to 5pm on Sunday. For more information call (670) 233-4402

From Dec. 14 to 25, **Joeten** is holding 12 days of Christmas special sale on selected items. Today, Dec. 19, get 40-percent off on Elite 6 Cup Rice Cooker. On Dec. 20, buy Hush Puppies at regular price and get one selected shoe of choice at 50-percent off. On Dec. 21, like the Joeten Store on

Facebook and follow Joeten Store on Instagram and buy a Diamond G rice for only \$9.99. On Dec 22, purchase a men's aloha shirt at regular price and get the second for 50-percent off. On Dec. 23, for a \$50 purchase, receive an Aiko's Ramen coupon. Buy any flavor of Freddo at any Latte Café location on Dec. 24 and get the second half off. On Dec. 25, for a purchase of Calsun jug milk, get a Post banana

nut crunch for free.

**iShop** at Paseo de Marianas is holding a yearend sale with up to 60-percent off on selected items. It's their way of thanking everyone. Promo ends on Dec. 31. For more information, call (670) 233-2616.

**PHI Pharmacy** on Navy Hill (CHC) and Dandan Joeten Dandan Center never stops caring, especially this Christmas season. From Dec. 10, 2018, to Jan. 5,

2019, enjoy 35-percent off on supplements, vitamins, and sports nutritional products. For over-the-counter items, get 25-percent off, and get 50-percent off on selected items. For more information, call (670) 323-5011 or (670) 235-6180

From Dec. 20-23, **Town-House Furniture and Appliances** is holding a Christmas sale on sofa sets, appliances, furniture, storage shelves, and mattresses. They also

have interest-free financing for up to 12 months on approved credit with Express Financial. Store is open Tuesday to Sunday from noon to 6pm. For more information, call (67) 588-0900.

Drive away a new car this Christmas from the Happy **Honda** Days sales event. Enjoy \$3,000 off on all Civic models. For more information visit [www.joetenmotors.com](http://www.joetenmotors.com). Or call (670) 234-5562. Showroom hours are from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to noon on Saturdays.

### LOCAL

From Page 16

raised here in the Marianas. ...We blend in the local culture with the concrete jungle. ...Our designs are hugely inspired by a lot of urban and streetwear in California, Miami and New York."

Travilla said that, for people who have been following the brand for the past three years, they know about Tribe Marianas' 'exclusivity,' "meaning once we sell something and it sold out, we never make it again."

"...One thing that we promise our customers is quality over quantity always," he added.

Their main tagline is "support local." These words are even displayed in neon lights at their main store on Middle Road. "We have been pushing and promoting for the community to support our brand because when they do, they support local... This is not talking bad about foreign investors or companies but when you shop local, you are keeping the local community alive," Travilla said.

"We urge the community to support local because the money stays in the community and we have to help each other prosper because we live here, our sons and daughters go to school here... When you shop local, the economy is alive



Tribe Marianas assures customers of quality over quantity. BEA CABRERA

and continues to circulate," Travilla added.

For more information about their products, go to their Facebook page and Ins-

tagram or visit Tribe Marianas' main store at D'Torres Building on Middle Road. They are also available in DFS Galleria in Garapan and DFS at the

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

### Saipan Brewing Company

The Saipan Brewing Co. was first launched during the CNMI Liberation Festival in June 2016. The good reception for their locally brewed beers reassured manager and head brewer Stephen Sablan that plans to go commercial was inevitable.

"Supporting local businesses is good for tourism, opens up jobs, and most of the money generated stays within the CNMI. From our perspective, it allows us to support our local farmers whenever we look for local products to add to our beer," he said.

"Our beer is made here on Saipan and doesn't get any fresher than that. SBC produces many different beers, from experimental to seasonal. We try to produce as many different styles for everyone to enjoy," he added.

Sablan said that their products are one of the gift choices this Christmas. "You can purchase our cans almost anywhere and try the different styles we have out there... Currently we have our Neipa, this is new. We will soon be rolling out our Hibiscus Spice Ale, which is our holiday beer, so we ask the community to be on the lookout. We also have shirts, hats, and beer glasses. Just call (670) 286-2337."

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# Holiday tipping

By DALVIN BROWN  
USA TODAY

Ever Joy Palmer is an avid online shopper.

The 27-year-old seller of beauty products says she does 90 percent of her monthly purchasing on websites like Amazon and Etsy. That means, of course, frequent visits from mail and parcel carriers.

"Basically, the only things I don't order online is food and that's just because I haven't gathered the courage to do it yet," Palmer said. In a typical month, she receives up to five packages. And when the Christmas rolls around, the 27-year-old mother of two said that number can double.

All of those parcels have presented her with one dilemma that she took to social media to solve: "How much should you tip your mail carriers for the holidays?" she posted on Facebook.

It's a common question during the festive season. Deciding who gets tips can be just as confusing as determining how much to give them. With a majority of Americans (66 percent) giving tips to at least one service provider during the holiday season according to Consumer Reports, experts say the best place to start is with those you encounter the most often.

"Our goal is to show gratitude for the services they extend to us throughout the year," said Elaine Swann, etiquette expert and founder of the Swann School of Protocol headquartered in Carlsbad, California. "The first person you should tip is the individual who has the biggest impact on your life -- who makes it easier. For some people, it's the trainer, others it's the pool cleaner, maybe it's your caregiver."

She said when you do give a tip, make sure you put it in an envelope. "You want to be clear that this is no accident. You really want to present it well."

Swan also said, when deciding how much to tip, it's important to consider that workers in the service industry are often underpaid the rest of the year.

"If you only see that person every six months, it probably doesn't warrant a big tip," said Jacqueline Whitmore, founder of the Protocol School of Palm Beach in Florida. "It gets expensive if you're going to try to give money to everybody."

Whitmore suggests you jot down a list of the most important service people you have contact with and base

your tipping strategy on the amount your budget can handle. "You don't have to feel obliged to give money to everybody," Whitmore said.

Lena Korohey, the founder of the business etiquette consultancy Gramercy Protocol LLC, offered the following guideline on whom to tip and how much to give depending on where they serve you:

## In-house

The standard in the domestic staff industry is to provide an end-of-the-year bonus around the holidays. This includes babysitters, nannies, house cleaners and dog walkers. It also includes handymen that you use often along with landscapers and gardeners.

Korohey said, in most cases, you should tip the cost of one week's salary. "If it's a house cleaner, you would tip the cost of one full cleaning. If it's a live-in, maybe it can be up to a month's pay."

## Building

This category includes people like building managers, supers, bellhops, porters, and parking assistants.

Korohey said a generous gift for building superintendents and managers can range from \$100 to \$200 per year, depending on how often you interact with them. "Maybe if you haven't seen them, you can bring that number down to fit what's appropriate," Korohey said.

For doormen and other building workers, tip anywhere between \$25 to \$150 during the holidays based on the level of service they provide. "Think -- has this person gone out of their way for me?" Korohey said, "And tip them according to that."

## Personal Care

Rather than worrying about how much extra to tip those who provide personal care, like hair stylists, barbers, manicurists, beauticians, personal trainers and beauticians, tip them each the cost of one service if you want to be generous, Korohey said.

"If you get a haircut and the cost is \$50, feel free to give them a holiday tip that equals the cost of one service," Korohey said.

She said to use the same rule of thumb for your pet groomer, masseuse and acupuncturist.

"It's a much more streamlined process," Korohey said.

## Others

Some service industry workers have unique situations that limit the amount of money you should tip.

For example, some mail carriers are government workers. "They are only allowed to accept up to \$20



Deciding who gets tips can be just as confusing as determining how much to give them.

PIXABAY

gifts," Korohey said. "They are allowed to accept gift cards. An Amazon gift card, for example, will allow them to choose a gift that works best for them."

She warned that giving money to your kid's teacher can come across as bribery. She said a small token gift from your child is more meaningful.

"It's a different type of gift because it comes from a place of appreciation for providing the support to the child."

## Joeten's 12 Days of Christmas Special!

**December 14-25, 2018**

**14 Dec.** Buy a Revlon Sleekstay 1" Flat Iron at regular price, get the second for **50% OFF**

**15 Dec.** For a purchase of any Palm Corned Beef at regular price, get the second for **\$2.00**

**16 Dec.** Additional **5% OFF** on Shoes and Sandals

**17 Dec.** For over \$100 worth of purchase, buy a Rubbermaid Easy Find Lid Set 24+4 for **\$5.00**

**18 Dec.** Buy a Raya Sun Boardshort at regular price and get one Free (Raya Sun Boardshort)

**19 Dec.** Get **40% OFF** on Elite 6 Cup Rice Cooker

**20 Dec.** Buy Hush Puppies at regular price and get one selected shoe of choice at **50%**

**21 Dec.** Like Joeten Store on Facebook and Follow Joeten Store on Instagram and buy a Diamond G 25# for **\$9.99**

**22 Dec.** Purchase a Men's Aloha Shirt at regular price and get the second for **50% OFF**

**23 Dec.** For a \$50 purchase, receive an Aiko's Ramen coupon

**24 Dec.** Buy any flavor of Freddo at any Latte Café location, get the second **half off**

**25 Dec.** For a purchase of Calsun Jug Milk, get a Post Banana Nut Crunch for free

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# Give the gift of homemade food for the holidays

By **DANIEL NEMAN**  
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

When you care enough to send the very best, you know that the very best is often homemade.

A box of candy is a lovely gift, and so is a big tin of flavored popcorn. But they just don't have that personal touch.

To show your friends and loved ones that you care, make them a gift yourself. Homemade food gifts are always appreciated, and they can be simply wonderful.

The ones I made are good. I mean really, really good. And don't tell anyone, but they are also easy. I mean really, really easy.

How easy? The Slow Cooker Dulce de Leche is literally nothing more than pouring canned sweetened condensed milk into jars, placing the jars in a slow cooker, adding water and turning on the heat.

Admittedly, this one gift does take time until it is done, but you can be off doing other things while it is cooking at a slow and even temperature. It takes about 11 to 12 hours on low heat—you can make it overnight—but I made it on high heat in six hours.

And what I had at the end was honest-to-goodness dulce de leche. If you've never had it before, maybe you should make a jar for yourself, too. It's impossibly rich, impossibly creamy, impossibly delicious. The flavor is sort of like caramel, but it's somehow better and more intense than caramel.

There are other ways of making dulce de leche that take less time but are more laborious. Traditionally, you slowly simmer together milk and sugar, stirring occasionally, for at least an hour and a half. But that takes a lot of standing at the stove.

The slow-cooker method allows you to set it and forget it for about six hours or so. When it's done, it can be used in any number of desserts, from pastries to the filling of sandwich cookies to an unbeatable sauce for ice cream. But to be perfectly honest, a lot of people just eat it out of the jar.

It's that good.

Almost as easy to make as the dulce de leche is Winter Orange Pomegranate Iced Tea. It's the perfect gift for an iced tea lover like me. It's iced tea with extra zing and a holiday flair.

Instead of using regular water to make the tea, you begin with water that is flavored with orange, cinnamon and cloves. You steep the tea bags in this water for



Carmel Crunch popcorn.

J.B. FORBES/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/TNS

five minutes before adding orange juice, pomegranate juice and sugar.

Do add the sugar. I don't like my iced tea sweetened at all, but this one needs it to counteract the tartness of the pomegranate juice.

The hardest part of making this iced tea gift is finding the bottles to put it in. I bought some shaped like soft-drink bottles for \$2 apiece, and even as I was paying for them I was thinking "I could just buy soft-drink bottles for \$1 and actually have the soft drink."

I also made a big batch of Carmel Crunch, because it's so easy and who doesn't like it? It is the familiar blend of popcorn and peanuts coated in caramel.

Some say that it is impossible to crunch and munch such a homemade treat, that it cannot be made at home. Poppycock, I say.

The popcorn is easy; I used a microwave. But the caramel, which is usually tricky to make, is also easy. You just melt butter with granulated and brown sugars plus some corn syrup, bring it to a boil and add a dash of baking soda. Simple, but it becomes light and crispy and does a terrific job of coating the popcorn.

Finally, I made something called Snowflake Mix, which is just a different form of Chex Mix. This one begins with Rice Chex and Corn Chex, plus pretzels and honey-roasted peanuts. You coat it all with melted white chocolate, and then comes the ingredient of true, unadulterated genius: mint-flavored M&Ms.

It's like eating a beautiful snowfall, wintry and cool and refreshing. It's got crunch, it's got peanuts, it's got pretzels. It has everything your friends and loved ones will want in a snack.

They'll be singing "I'm Dreaming of a White Chocolate."

## Snowflake Mix

Yield: 16 servings

3 cups bite-size rice square cereal, such as Rice Chex  
3 cups bite-size corn square cereal, such as Corn Chex  
1 { cups small pretzel twists, squares or sticks  
1 cup honey-roasted peanuts  
24 ounces white chocolate chips or baking pieces  
9 ounces mint M&Ms

1. In a very large bowl, combine rice cereal, corn cereal, pretzels and peanuts. Set aside. Lay out a large piece of waxed paper or parchment.

2. Melt white chocolate in a metal bowl over simmering water, stirring constantly. Pour melted chocolate over cereal mixture. Stir gently to coat. Spread on waxed paper and sprinkle with mint M&Ms. Allow to cool, and break into pieces. Store in an airtight container for up to 1 week or in the freezer for 1 month.

Per serving: 457 calories; 21 g fat; 11 g saturated fat; 11 mg cholesterol; 6 g protein; 63 g carbohydrate; 38 g sugar; 2 g fiber; 384 mg sodium; 132 mg calcium

Adapted from Midwest Living

## WINTER ORANGE POMEGRANATE ICED TEA

Yield: 6 servings

3 cups water  
1 navel orange, cut into half-inch slices  
1 cinnamon stick, broken  
6 whole cloves  
4 orange-flavored or black tea bags (decaffeinated is fine)  
1 cup orange juice  
1 cup pomegranate juice

2 to 3 tablespoons granulated sugar

1. In a medium saucepan, combine water, orange slices, cinnamon and cloves. Bring just to boiling; remove from heat. Add tea bags. Let stand, covered, for 5 minutes. Remove tea bags and discard. Strain tea mixture through a fine-mesh strainer; discard orange slices and spices.

2. In a glass pitcher, combine strained tea mixture, orange juice, pomegranate juice and sugar, stirring to dissolve sugar. Cover and chill for at least 4 hours. Serve over ice with wedges of orange and lime.

3. If giving as a tightly sealed gift, it will keep in the refrigerator for three days.

Per serving: 73 calories; no fat; no saturated fat; no cholesterol; no protein; 18 g carbohydrate; 15 g sugar; 1 g fiber; 11 mg sodium; 36 mg calcium

Recipe by Midwest Living

## Carmel Crunch

Yield: 24 servings

2 bags of microwaved

light popcorn  
2 { cups salted dry-roasted peanuts  
8 ounces (2 sticks) butter—no substitutions  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 cup packed light brown sugar  
{ cup light corn syrup  
{ teaspoon baking soda

1. Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Lightly grease 2 rimmed baking pans or spray with nonstick cooking spray. Place popped corn in very large bowl, discarding unpopped kernels. Add peanuts, and toss to combine.

2. In a 3-quart pan over medium heat, cook butter, sugar, brown sugar and corn syrup, stirring frequently with metal or heat-safe spatula, until butter melts and sugars dissolve; about 5 minutes. Increase heat to medium-high and bring to a boil. Boil 3 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in baking soda (the mixture will bubble vigorously) and pour over popcorn mixture. Stir immediately and continue stirring until all popcorn is evenly coated.

3. Divide popcorn mixture between prepared baking

pans; spread evenly. Place pans on 2 oven racks. Bake 32 to 40 minutes, rotating pans between upper and lower racks halfway through baking, and stirring occasionally.

4. Cool mixture completely in pans on wire racks, about 1 hour. Break apart any large clusters of popcorn when cool. Store in tightly sealed containers at room temperature up to 2 weeks.

Per serving: 259 calories; 16 g fat; 6 g saturated fat; 20 mg cholesterol; 5 g protein; 27 g carbohydrate; 20 g sugar; 2 g fiber; 73 mg sodium; 23 mg calcium

Slightly adapted from Good Housekeeping

## Slow Cooker Dulce de Leche

Yield: 56 servings

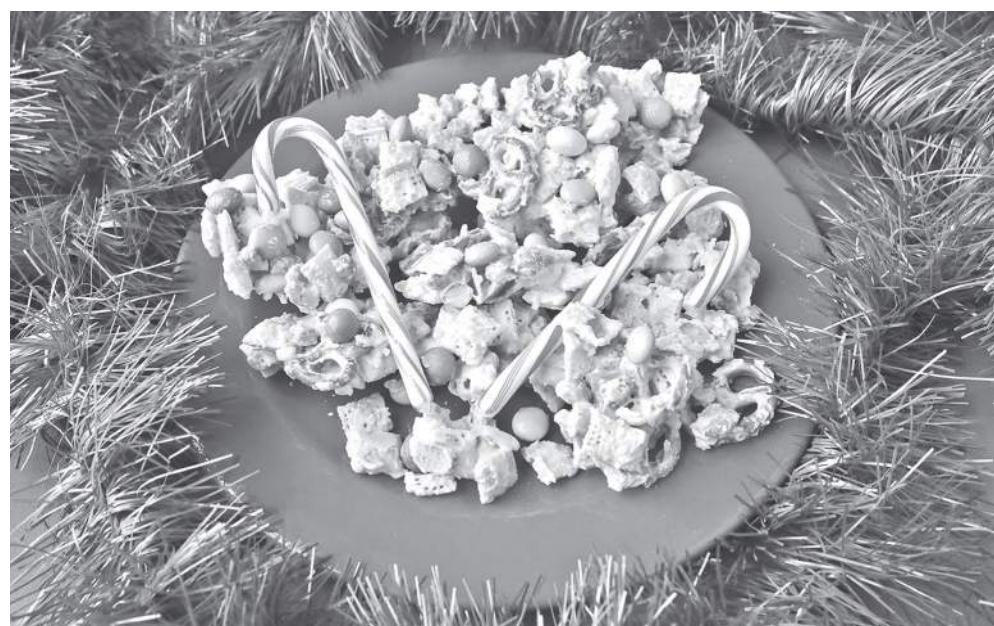
2 (14-ounce) cans sweetened condensed milk

1. Divide the sweetened condensed milk among 4 (6-ounce) canning jars or 3 (8-ounce) jars. Secure lids. Place in a slow cooker, adding enough hot tap water to cover by 1 inch. Cook on low for 11 to 12 hours or high for 5 to 6 hours, or until thick and richly colored, like dark copper.

2. To check doneness, use tongs to remove a jar. If the color looks good but you aren't sure it's thick, you can open a jar to check consistency; if necessary, secure lid again and return to cooker. When fully cooked, remove jars with tongs. Cool to room temperature; store in refrigerator for up to 3 weeks. The cooking process does not create a vacuum seal, so the jars must be stored in the refrigerator.

Per serving: 61 calories; 2 g fat; 1 g saturated fat; 7 mg cholesterol; 2 g protein; 11 g carbohydrate; 11 g sugar; no fiber; 24 mg sodium; 54 mg calcium

Slightly adapted from Midwest Living



Snowflake Mix.

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ACCORD SPORT	JA127198	STILL NIGHT	<b>\$3,000</b>	TRANSIT 350 MR	JKB19772	OXFORD WHITE	<b>\$5,000</b>	SENTRA S	JY250557	FRESH POWDER	<b>\$3,000</b>
CIVIC TOURING	JU219725	RALLYE RED	<b>\$4,000</b>	TRANSIT 350 LR	JKA83076	OXFORD WHITE	<b>\$4,000</b>	ROGUE S 4WD	JW353014	GLA D WHITE	<b>\$3,500</b>
HRV EX 2WD	JM702620	LUNAR SILVER	<b>\$3,000</b>	TRANSIT 350 HD	JKA83060	INGOT SILVER	<b>\$5,000</b>	TITAN PRO4X 4WD	HN555149	GUN METALLIC	<b>\$7,000</b>
PILOT EX 2WD	JB004061	LUNAR SILVER	<b>\$4,000</b>	TRANSIT 150 XL LR	JKA83059	OXFORD WHITE	<b>\$4,000</b>	MURANO PLATINUM	HN147924	ARTIC BLUE	<b>\$5,000</b>
HRV EX 2WD	HM714229	CRYSTAL BLACK	<b>\$4,000</b>	EXPLORER LTD 4WD	JGC88943	PLAT DUNE TRICO	<b>\$5,000</b>	PATHFINDER SV 4WD	HC673748	GUN METALLIC	<b>\$5,000</b>



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# From the buy button to your door

By MARIA HALKIAS and  
MELISSA REPKO  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

**DALLAS**—A couple of weeks before Christmas, the inside of an Amazon Robotics fulfillment center near Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport looks more industrial than anything having to do with holiday shopping.

As Amazon customers hit the “buy” button over and over again, workers, scanners and robots are set in motion across the sprawling 1-million-square-foot facility in a real-time display of software engineering.

It’s clear why the whole place takes two 15-minute breaks and a 30-minute lunch at the same time. Everything moves in synchrony.

The newest of Amazon’s local fulfillment centers, located in Coppell on airport property on West Bethel Road, is one giant assembly line operated by 2,000 full-time employees. They work 10 or 12 hours a day, four days a week. Three different day shifts and two night shifts keep the center operating 24/7.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the fulfillment center’s lobby is decorated with twinkie lights, red and white balloons, an inflatable snowman and a Christmas tree made with garlands and, of course, Amazon boxes. The traditional box men at the entrance of every fulfillment center are dressed up for the season like toy soldiers.

Why is it so loud? Because every conveyor belt throughout the four-level building is moving and carrying yellow plastic tubs and packages, said

Amazon spokeswoman Brenda Alfred. The more tubs, the more bumping and clanking, the louder it gets.

Conveyor belts look like roller coaster tracks in a place that she said is big enough to fit 28 football fields and made up of enough steel to construct two Eiffel Towers.

Each day, employees file through subway-like grated metal turnstiles at the entrance of FTW6, the center’s given name.

A white board message congratulates the staff: “Thank you FTW6 associates for successful Black Friday and Cyber Monday at FTW6. We shipped 600K units to customers and 120K units to other Amazon buildings on both days.”

Last year, Amazon represented about 40 percent of U.S. e-commerce sales and about 6 percent of total retail sales, and it’s growing faster than most retailers. This year, it’s expected to capture almost 50 percent of U.S. online sales.

Robots and people

Employees stand at stations scattered across the shiny concrete factory floor. They handle arriving inventory, pick it, package it and are always scanning it. This place would never work without scanner technology.

Elizabeth Moran of Farmers Branch wears gloves on her hands and Nikes on her feet. Her hair is pulled back and up in a ponytail, that’s a safety rule. No hair longer than shoulder length allowed.

From behind, she could be in the front row of a workout step class, moving to one side, up one step, next time, two steps. Her arms move up and down as she picks and puts a toy, a

frying pan, a package of party paper plates into bins. She scans each item and monitors a screen, then pushes yellow tubs out to ride along conveyor belts to the next station.

Demanding work conditions at Amazon’s fulfillment centers and similar

four-sided pods that arrive automatically at her station and wait in line to serve up the next item ordered by a customer. The pods are randomly filled with merchandise and made mobile

codes along the floor.

Picked merchandise in tubs are assigned a unique barcode and ride conveyors to the next stop on the main floor to a station where the order is boxed up.

Wearing an elf hat, Jeffrey Tucker scans the order. Software suggests the box size he should pull and the amount of protective packing it needs. Automatically, the proper length of tape to seal the box comes out of a dispenser. No time to talk to Tucker because it’s almost break time and there’s one more process to witness.

A small QR code on the box prompts another robot with a printer and an arm called SLAM—which stands for scan, label, apply and manifest—to create the mailing label and adhere it to the box.

Along the way, scanners are looking for mix-ups and mess-ups like an item that won’t fit in the suggested box or a label wrongly placed. Those items and boxes go to another chute where people solve the issues.

Truck ready

Packages ready to go are moved at hundreds of feet per minute along the center’s longest conveyor, past a scanner that reads ZIP codes. That triggers sliders to position themselves behind each box to push it just at the right moment when it’s speeding by its designated chute.

Down it goes in a spiral shaped tube that slows the

box to land safely at a loading dock. It’s in front of the correct truck.

Employees inside the trucks pack boxes to maximize the space. The trucks are driven to sorting centers, Amazon facilities that are smaller than fulfillment centers and where more packages are sorted by ZIP codes onto pallets for pick up every morning by the U.S. Postal Service.

This is repeated every minute, every hour, every day in 185 fulfillment and sorting centers across 30 states. There are 10 centers in Texas.

Some cities also have Prime Now hubs. They’re located in densely populated areas where Amazon offers one-hour and two-hour delivery service. Those buildings are stocked with the most purchased items that people want fast, like diapers and phone chargers. Amazon is also filling fresh food orders from Whole Foods in 63 cities.

When employees exit the Coppell fulfillment center, they’re sort of scanned, too, as they walk through a metal detector that resembles ones used at airports.

Alfred said Amazon doesn’t want any proprietary information leaving with employees. “We have 2,000 operational processes and we’re protective of them,” she said.

And as of Wednesday, no visitors are allowed in FTW6 until after the holidays. It’s crunch time.

## » Go inside an Amazon fulfillment center

operations are no secret. Job review posts warn of the repetitiveness of the work and being on your feet for 10 hours a day.

Asked if her job allows her to skip aerobics workouts, Moran simply smiled.

This is an Amazon Robotics warehouse for small items. No big screen TVs and trampolines here. In another online fulfillment center, she would be walking up and down aisles putting small items into a cart. Here, robots deliver the goods to Moran, who has worked at Amazon for one year.

In this Amazon fulfillment center, employees make \$15 to \$18.75 an hour depending on experience and up to up to \$28.13 an hour for overtime. Amazon raised its minimum wage to \$15 an hour effective Nov. 1 for all its facilities.

Moran fills multiple tubs and orders at once, even as a crew from The Dallas Morning News observes her in action.

She’s picking from tall,

by sitting on top of robots that resemble a large version of a Roomba vacuum.

Pods scurry off and wait to the side to be summoned again, either to a picking station like Moran’s or to a “stowing” station operated by Sal Ribaul, who has worked at Amazon since the center opened in March.

Rhyme and reason

The yellow pods sense when they have space to be filled and line up for Ribaul. He likened his job “to playing Tetris,” a computer game that its creators say embraces a desire to make order out of chaos.

He loads a lemon zester, a fondue pot, a Star Wars toy, containers of juice, a children’s book, kids’ walkie-talkies. It all seems random. But random stowing works here. If all the lemon zesters were in one pod, it might have to travel longer to get to a picking station.

The pods slide along without crashing into one another because they’re guided by software and QR



# Business

## US sportswear traced to factory in China's internment camps

**HOTAN, China** (AP)—Barbed wire and hundreds of cameras ring a massive compound of more than 30 dormitories, schools, warehouses and workshops in China's far west. Dozens of armed officers and a growling Doberman stand guard outside.

Behind locked gates, men and women are sewing sportswear that can end up on U.S. college campuses and sports teams.

This is one of a growing number of internment camps in the Xinjiang region, where by some estimates 1 million Muslims are detained, forced to give up their language and their religion and subject to political indoctrination. Now, the Chinese government is also forcing some detainees to work in manufacturing and food industries. Some of them are within the internment camps; others are privately-owned, state-subsidized factories where detainees are sent once they are released.

The Associated Press has tracked recent, ongoing shipments from one such factory inside an internment camp to Badger Sportswear, a leading supplier in Statesville, North Carolina. The shipments show how difficult it is to stop products made with forced labor from getting into the global supply chain, even though such imports are illegal in the U.S. Badger CEO John Anton said Sunday that the company would source sportswear elsewhere while it investigates.

Chinese authorities say the camps, which they call training centers, offer free vocational training for Uighurs, Kazakhs and others, mostly Muslims, as part of a plan to bring minorities into "a modern civilized" world and eliminate poverty in Xinjiang. They say that people in the centers have signed agreements to receive vocational training.

The Xinjiang Propaganda Department did not respond to a faxed request for comment. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman accused the foreign media Monday of making "many untrue reports" about the training centers, but did not specify when asked for details.

"Those reports are completely based on hearsay evidence or made out of thin air," the spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, said at a daily briefing.

However, a dozen people who either had been in a camp or had friends or family in one told the AP that detainees they

knew were given no choice but to work at the factories. Most of the Uighurs and Kazakhs, who were interviewed in exile, also said that even people with professional jobs were retrained to do menial work.

Payment varied according to the factory. Some got paid nothing, while others earned up to several hundred dollars a month, they said—barely above minimum wage for the poorer parts of Xinjiang. A person with firsthand knowledge of the situation in one county estimated that more than 10,000 detainees—or 10 to 20 percent of the internment population there—are working in factories, with some earning just a tenth of what they used to earn before. The person declined to be named out of fear of retribution.

A former reporter for Xinjiang TV in exile said that during his month-long detention last year, young people in his camp were taken away in the mornings to work without compensation in carpentry and a cement factory.

"The camp didn't pay any money, not a single cent," he said, asking to be identified only by his first name, Elyar, because he has relatives still in Xinjiang. "Even for necessities, such as things to shower with or sleep at night, they would call our families outside to get them to pay for it."

Rushan Abbas, a Uighur in Washington, D.C., said her sister is among those detained. The sister, Dr. Gulshan Abbas, was taken to what the government calls a vocational center, although she has no specific information on whether her sister is being forced to work.

"American companies importing from those places should know those products are made by people being treated like slaves," she said. "What are they going to do, train a doctor to be a seamstress?"

The predominantly Muslim Uighur and Kazakh ethnic minorities in China live mostly in the Xinjiang region bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan, with a legacy dating back to ancient traders on the Silk Road. In recent decades, violent attacks by Uighur militants have killed hundreds and prompted the Chinese government to blanket Xinjiang with stifling security.

About two years ago, authorities launched a vast detention and reeducation campaign. They also use checkpoints, GPS tracking and face-scanning

cameras for surveillance of ethnic minorities in the region. The slightest perceived misstep can land someone in the internment camps.

Men and women in the complex that has shipped products to Badger Sportswear make clothes for privately-owned Hetian Taida Apparel in a cluster of 10 workshops within the compound walls. Hetian Taida says it is not affiliated with the internment camps, but its workforce includes detainees.

As China faced growing international pressure about the detention camps, its state broadcaster aired a 15-minute report in October that featured a "vocational skills education and training center" in the southern Xinjiang city of Hotan.

"Terrorism and extremism are the common enemy of human civilization," the China Central Television program began. In response, the report said, the Xinjiang government was using vocational training to solve this "global issue."

Wu Hongbo, the chairman of Hetian Taida, confirmed that the company has a factory inside the same compound as the training center featured in the China Central Television report. Hetian Taida provides employment to those trainees who were deemed by the government to be "unproblematic," he said, adding that the center is government-operated.

"We're making our contribution to eradicating poverty," Wu told the AP over the phone.

The 20 to 30 trainees at the factory are treated like regular employees and make up a small fraction of the hundreds of people in its workforce, he said.

Trainees featured in the state television report praised the Communist Party for saving them from a criminal path.

"I don't dare to imagine what would have happened to me if I didn't come here," one Uighur student said. "The party and government found me in time and saved me. They gave me a chance to reinvent myself."

The segment said that in addition to law and Mandarin-language classes, the training center collaborated with companies to give trainees practical experience. Trainees were shown hunched over sewing machines in a factory whose interior matches that of Hetian Taida's main Hotan branch, as seen in prior Chinese media reports.

# Nation

AS CLOCK TICKS TOWARD PARTIAL SHUTDOWN

## GOP waits on Trump

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The fight over President Donald Trump's \$5 billion wall funds deepened Monday, threatening a partial government shutdown in a standoff that has become increasingly common in Washington.

It wasn't always like this, with Congress and the White House at a crisis over government funding. The House and Senate used to pass annual appropriation bills, and the president signed them into law. But in recent years the shutdown scenario has become so routine that it raises the question: Have shutdowns as a negotiating tool lost their punch?

Monday brought few signs of progress. A partial shutdown that could occur at midnight Friday risks disrupting government operations and leaving hundreds of thousands of federal employees furloughed or working without pay over the holiday season. Costs would be likely in the billions of dollars.

Trump was meeting with his team and getting regular updates, said White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders. Trump was also tweeting Monday to keep up the pressure.

Exiting a Senate Republi-



The Capitol is seen at twilight in Washington, Monday, Dec. 17, 2018.

can leadership meeting late Monday, Sen. John Thune of South Dakota said, "It looks like it probably is going to have to build for a few days here before there's a solution."

The president is insisting on \$5 billion for the wall along the southern border with Mexico, but he does not have the votes from the Republican-led Congress to support it. Democrats are offering to continue funding at current levels, \$1.3 billion, not for the wall but for fencing and other border security.

It's unclear how many House Republicans, with just a few weeks left in the majority before relinquishing power to House Democrats, will even show up mid-week for

possible votes. Speaker Paul Ryan's office had no update. Many Republicans say it's up to Trump and Democrats to cut a deal.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Trump talk most days, but the senator's spokesman would not confirm if they spoke Monday about a plan. McConnell opened the chamber hoping for a "bipartisan collaborative spirit" that would enable Congress to finish its work.

"We need to make a substantial investment in the integrity of our border," McConnell said. "And we need to close out the year's appropriation process."

Meanwhile more than 800,000 government workers are preparing for the uncertainty ahead.



### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Chicago police: 2 officers die after being struck by train

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Two Chicago police officers were fatally struck by a train Monday as they investigated a report of gunshots on the city's far South Side. Eduardo Marmolejo, 37, and Conrad Gary, 31, were pursuing a person who had headed toward train tracks and were hit shortly after 6 p.m. as the commuter train passed through the area, Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said. "There was no stop at that location so the train was probably going somewhere between 60 and 70 miles per hour," Johnson said during a news conference. He said an individual was taken into custody and a weapon was recovered. He said the investigation was still in the early stages and that more details would be released at a later time. Marmolejo had been with the department for 2½ years and Gary for 18 months, Johnson

said. Chicago police use "ShotSpotter" technology, or sensors that monitor for the sound of gunfire and alert police. Johnson said the two officers went to the scene Monday after a "ShotSpotter" alert went out. "It just highlights again how dangerous this job can be. I often say that the most dangerous thing a police officer can do is take a weapon off of an armed individual," Johnson said.

#### Huge barrier isn't trapping plastic waste in Pacific Ocean

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A floating device sent to corral a swirling island of trash between California and Hawaii has not swept up any plastic waste—but the young innovator behind the project said Monday that a fix was in the works. Boyan Slat, 24, who launched the Pacific Ocean cleanup project, said the speed of the solar-powered barrier isn't allowing it to hold on to the plastic it

catches. "Sometimes the system actually moves slightly slower than the plastic, which of course you don't want because then you have a chance of losing the plastic again," Slat said in an interview with The Associated Press. A crew of engineers will reach the U-shaped boom Tuesday and will work for the next few weeks to widen its span so that it catches more wind and waves to help it go faster, he said. A ship towed the 2,000-foot-long (600-meter-long) barrier in September from San Francisco to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—an island of trash twice the size of Texas. It has been in place since the end of October, Slat said. The plastic barrier with a tapered 10-foot-deep (3-meter-deep) screen is intended to act like a coastline, trapping some of the 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic that scientists estimate are swirling in the patch while allowing marine life to safely swim beneath it.



# Asia

## Japan to spend more on defense

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan plans its first aircraft carrier and big increases in defense spending and weapons capability in the coming years, according to new defense guidelines approved Tuesday that cite the need to counter potential threats from North Korea and China and other vulnerabilities.

The guidelines approved at a meeting of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet call for refitting an existing helicopter carrier into a ship that can deploy 42 expensive, U.S.-made F-35B stealth fighters capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings. Japan plans to buy 147 F-35s over the next decade.

The guidelines would replace the current defense plan halfway through and underscore Abe's push to expand Japan's military role and capability to make it "a normal country" in Abe's words. He has long wanted to revise Japan's U.S.-drafted constitution that renounces war and has already broadened the concept of self-defense to allow Japanese personnel to defend allied military forces as Japan increasingly works alongside American troops.

Defense officials say Japan needs higher deterrence and increased missile defense and

fighter capability to cope with threats from North Korea and China and other changes in the region's security environment. The new guidelines say Japan needs to be well-prepared and to show it can withstand threats, noting the archipelago is prone to natural disasters and its coastline is dotted with vulnerable nuclear power plants.

Officials say the Maritime Self-Defense Force's helicopter carrier Izumo, a 250-meter (820-foot)-long, flat-top destroyer that can carry 14 helicopters, is set to be refitted as an aircraft carrier. Japan has relatively little land on which to build runways long enough for conventional F-35s, and an aircraft carrier would be particularly useful in the western Pacific, where Japan wants to play a greater role as part of the U.S.-Japan alliance. A cost estimate wasn't given.

Critics say possession of an aircraft carrier would give Japan a strike capability in violation of its pacifist constitution that limits use of force to self-defense only. Japan, under the new defense guidelines, also plans to possess cruise missiles designed to hit enemy targets, which opponents say

could go beyond Japan's pacifist principle.

Defense officials brushed off the criticism, saying Izumo will be a multifunctional warship used as aircraft carrier only when necessary for national defense.

The guidelines say Japan needs to beef up its air defense capability in the Pacific, while expanding surveillance in the area. The Defense

Ministry says Japan plans to purchase 105 conventional F-35s and 42 F-35Bs to replace some of its fleet of F-15s.

The big price tag for the jets—a F-35B costs about 10 billion yen (\$90 million)—will drive up Japan's defense spending, which has already climbed steadily for six straight years since Abe took office at the end of 2012. Japan plans to spend 235 billion yen (\$2 billion) to buy a pair of land-fixed U.S. missile defense system, Aegis Ashore, as well as other American missile interceptors.

The Cabinet, under the guidelines, also approved a new Medium Term Defense Program requiring a record five-year defense spending of 27 trillion yen (\$240 billion) beginning 2019, up more than 2 trillion yen (\$17.6 billion) from an earlier five-year defense budget.

### » Refit 1st aircraft carrier

## UN condemns North Korea rights violations and nuke spending

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—The U.N. General Assembly on Monday condemned North Korea's "systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights" and its diversion of resources into pursuing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles over the welfare of its people.

It noted "with concern" that over 10 million North Koreans are estimated to be undernourished and that there is "an unacceptably high prevalence of chronic and acute malnutrition" in the reclusive northeast Asian nation.

The resolution, sponsored by Japan and the European Union, was adopted by consensus, though countries including Russia, China, Cuba and Venezuela disassociated themselves from it. Many expressed opposition to assembly resolutions singling out specific countries and said the Geneva-based Human Rights Council should deal with rights issues.

North Korea's U.N. ambassador, Kim Song, said his country "categorically rejects" the resolution, calling it "a product of (a) political plot and hostile forces."

He accused Japan of "pro-

voking confrontation" with North Korea "by going back against the main trend in (the) Korean peninsula" when delicate political negotiations are underway.

Since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reached out to South Korea and the United States early this year, the two Korean leaders have met several times and Kim held a historic summit with President Donald Trump—with another one expected in the new year. But there has been no significant progress on Kim's commitment to nuclear disarmament, and as a result no lifting of U.N. or U.S. sanctions against North Korea.

The resolution's approval followed the U.S. failure to get enough votes to discuss North Korea's human rights record in the Security Council a week ago. It had succeeded for the last four years, and diplomats said the U.S. is likely to try again in the new year when five new members join the council.

A statement released Monday by North Korea's U.N. Mission noted opposition to the U.S. move and asserted

again that the Security Council "is neither a place for discussion on any human rights issue nor a platform where a human rights issue is politicized to flare up confrontation."

Whatever the change in the Security Council's composition, North Korea said it shouldn't be used as a platform "where U.S.'s high-handedness and arbitrary practice would prevail."

The General Assembly resolution adopted Monday expresses "very serious concern" at reports of torture, detention, rape, public executions, the imposition of the death penalty, the absence of the rule of law, and "collective punishments extending up to three generations."

It also expressed concern at forced labor in North Korea and its "extensive system of political prison camps where a vast number of persons are deprived of their liberty and subjected to deplorable conditions" as well as "all-pervasive and severe restrictions, both online and offline, on the freedoms of thought, conscience, religion or belief, opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association."

# World

## May: Postponed Brexit vote to be held week of Jan 14

**LONDON (AP)**—Prime Minister Theresa May said Monday that the postponed vote in Parliament on Britain's Brexit agreement with the European Union will be held the week of Jan. 14—more than a month after it was originally scheduled and just 10 weeks before Britain leaves the EU.

But even as May insisted she could salvage her unpopular divorce deal, pressure was mounting for dramatic action—a new referendum or a vote among lawmakers—to find a way out of Britain's Brexit impasse and prevent the economic damage of a messy exit from the EU on March 29 with no agreement in place.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, said he would submit a motion of no-confidence in the prime minister over her delays. Losing the vote on such a motion would increase the pressure on May, but unlike a no-confidence vote in the government as a whole it wouldn't trigger a process leading to the fall of the government and an early election.

No date was immediately set for the confidence vote.

The British government and the EU sealed a divorce deal last month, but May postponed a parliamentary vote intended to ratify the agreement last week when it became clear legislators would overwhelmingly reject it.

## Venezuelan migrants hit Peru's street, dancing to survive

**LIMA, Peru (AP)**—The three Venezuelan migrants eke out a living 90 seconds at a time in a busy intersection of Peru's capital. When the traffic light flashes red, the acrobatics and break dancing starts.

With a captive audience of pedestrians and commuters packed inside city buses, the dancers' headstands, dizzying spins and fast-paced steps on a good day net up to \$20 in pocket change—nearly three times the monthly minimum wage in Venezuela.

It also earned them a brush with a Hollywood superstar Angelina Jolie.

"You never know how it will go in the street," said dancer Karin Rojas. "One day it's good and the next day it's bad."

The trio is just part of a flood of Venezuelans fighting for survival after fleeing their homeland and the worst economic crisis anybody in Latin



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves 10 Downing Street, in London Monday, Dec. 17, 2018, for the House of Commons to make a statement on the EU Summit held recently in Brussels.

America can remember. Most Venezuelan migrants head to neighboring Colombia, overwhelming border towns. They hawk their valuables on the street, sell hotdogs or repair shoes. Farther-off Peru is the second-most-common destination. Rojas, 25, and her husband, Francisco Diaz, arrived in Lima in 2016, leaving behind their mountainous home in the Venezuelan state of Merida, where they ran a break dancing collective.

In Peru, they met the third partner, Angel Fernandez, a short and stout 22-year-old from their home state. The three settled on a busy intersection in Lima to perform.

Six days a week, they bound into the intersection with each red light—an exhausting 80 times over a 13-hour workday. They end some days just \$5 richer, and hurting physically.

The sun cooks the asphalt.

of Conservative lawmakers vote against her.

May told lawmakers in the House of Commons on Monday that they would resume debate on the deal when Parliament comes back after its Christmas break the week of Jan. 7, with the vote held the following week.

Their palms are covered in calluses and fingers sometimes bleed. Rojas says her bones ache and her head throbs.

Still, Rojas said, their life is better than in Venezuela, where she would go two days in a row without eating. Now, she can afford three meals a day.

Their dancing also caught the attention of Jolie in October, when the American actress visited Lima as a special envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Their moves impressed Jolie, and she told them not to give up their dreams.

Rojas and Diaz hope to parlay earnings from their street dancing into buying a three-wheel motorcycle taxi, a common form of transportation in Lima's poor outskirts.

"We're never going to stop dancing," Rojas said. "Dancing helps us forget all of our sorrows."



# Life & Style

## 'Roma,' 'Burning' among foreign language Oscar contenders

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A number of Oscar hopefuls just got one step closer to a nomination with Monday's reveal of nine Academy Awards shortlists, including best foreign language film where Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma" and Lee Chang-dong's thriller "Burning" are among nine films in consideration.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Monday announced shortlists for a number of below the line categories including hair and makeup, score, original song and best documentary, where crowd-pleasers like the Ruth

Bader Ginsburg documentary "RBG" and the Fred Rogers film "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" made the cut.

Shortlists, decided on by executive committees in the film academy, help narrow the playing field in many of the categories before they are whittled down further to five final nominations in late January.

Many believe Mexico's "Roma" to be a front-runner for a best picture nomination as well, while the acclaimed "Burning," which is based on a Haruki Murakami story, could make history by becoming South Korea's first ever nominee.



**AP**  
This image released by Netflix shows Yalitza Aparicio, center, in a scene from the film "Roma," by filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón.

the intense climbing film "Free Solo."

This is the first time since 1979 that the film academy has released a shortlist for the music categories. Fifteen original songs were selected from 90 submissions and include "Shallow" from "A Star Is Born," "All The Stars" from "Black Panther," Dolly Parton's "Girl in the Movies" from "Dumplin'," and two songs from "Mary Poppins Returns"—"The Place Where Lost Things Go" and "Trip a Little Light Fantastic."

"Mary Poppins Returns" and "Black Panther" were also shortlisted for best original score, as was "Vice" and "If Beale Street Could Talk," which were both composed by Nicholas Britell.

## Meghan's father Thomas Markle appeals to her to call home

**LONDON (AP)**—Thomas Markle appealed to his daughter Meghan to call home, saying Monday they hadn't spoken since her wedding to Prince Harry in May.

The former actress, now known as the Duchess of Sussex, has ignored his attempts to get in touch, Thomas Markle told ITV. Markle had been scheduled to walk his daughter down the aisle, but pulled out of the wedding at the last moment because of heart problems.

"I love my daughter very much and she has to know that, and I would really appreciate if she would call me, just reach out to me," Markle said in the interview from San Diego.

In Markle's first television interview since the duchess announced her pregnancy in October, the 74-year-old

grandfather-to-be agreed he'd been "ghosted" by his daughter. He suggested the royal couple had been influenced by media reports about him.

"The funny thing about my daughter and Prince Harry is that they believe everything they read in the paper," he said. "What's happened, I'm not sure. I'd love to talk about it. I think it comes back to the fact that reporters pick up on interviews I've done and write their own stories and tell lies."

Markle hopes Queen Elizabeth II will help heal the rift.

He also rejected the notion his daughter had a habit of dumping those she no longer needed.

"That's really not a character trait," he said. "She's always been very polite to everyone, never been rude to anyone. I don't know what's really happening right now."

Other films in contention include Poland's "Cold War," which was snubbed by the Golden Globe Awards, Lebanon's "Capernaum," Japan's "Shoplifters," Colombia's "Birds of Passage," Den-

mark's "The Guilty," Germany's "Never Look Away" and Kazakhstan's "Ayka."

Notable documentary features also included on the shortlist include "Minding the Gap," a 12-year odyssey

about a group of skateboarders growing up in Rockford, Illinois, the too-wild-to-be-true "Three Identical Strangers," about triplets separated by adoption at birth who find each other later in life, and

## Actor Geoffrey Rush accused of sexual misconduct

**NEW YORK (AP)**—"Orange Is the New Black" actress Yael Stone alleged actor Geoffrey Rush engaged in sexually inappropriate behavior when they starred in "The Diary of a Madman" in 2010.

Speaking to The New York Times, the 33-year-old said Rush danced naked in front of her in their dressing room, used a mirror to watch her while she showered and sent her occasionally erotic texts.

Stone said she "enthusiastically and willingly" replied to the texts from her fellow Australian actor when she was 25 and he was 59.

"I was so flattered that someone like that would spend their time texting me into the very early hours of the morning," she said. "Gradually the text messages became more sexual in nature, but always encased in this very highfalutin intellectual language."

"I'm embarrassed by the ways I participated," Stone said. "I certainly wouldn't engage as the person I am now in the way I did when I was 25."

Stone said she was trying to manage "uncomfortable



**Rush**

moments" without offending the star.

In a statement, Rush said the allegations "are incorrect and in some instances have been taken completely out of context."

"However, clearly Yael has been upset on occasion by the spirited enthusiasm I generally bring to my work. I sincerely and deeply regret if I have caused her any distress. This, most certainly, has never been my intention," Rush said.

A representative for Stone referred The Associated

Press to her original comments. A Rush representative did not return an email seeking additional comments Monday morning.

The allegations came as Rush awaited a verdict in a defamation lawsuit that he filed in Australia.

Rush sued the Daily Telegraph's publisher, Nationwide News, and a journalist over two articles and a newspaper poster published in 2017. They related to a report he behaved inappropriately toward a co-star during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear in 2015 and 2016.

## Sparks fail to fly for mom dating her perfect match

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a close friend who is in her mid-30s. She's a wonderful, divorced, hardworking Christian mother of four who has finally ventured back to the dating scene. She's currently seeing a guy who in all respects is perfect for her, she says. Unfortunately, when it comes to romance, for some reason she can't seem to get aroused, and it's now at a point where she avoids his kiss if possible.

She really likes him and would love for this to work and feels conflicted because she doesn't know how to "light her fire" and find him intimately attractive. She's afraid she'll eventually push him away even though she wants the exact opposite. Any advice I can pass along?

NEEDING A FRIEND IN THE SOUTHWEST

**DEAR NEEDING:** Your friend needs to understand why she's having a problem "getting her fire lit." Could it be related to her divorce? Her feelings about premarital intimacy? Has she seen her doctor to rule out a physical cause? Or could it be that although he looks good on paper, there's simply no chemistry?

Because intimacy is an important part of marriage, she needs to be honest with herself about why she's reacting the way she is. If this isn't the only man this has happened with, and she can't find the answers within herself, some sessions with a licensed mental health professional may be in order.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband invited his good friend (an artist) to stay with us for two nights because he is coming to our city to give a speech. He accepted.

We tried to contact him two weeks ago, one week ago, three days ago, yesterday and this morning to find out what time he'll arrive so we can plan our schedule and prepare the food. He still hasn't gotten back to us. I had planned to go to church and a concert afterward. My husband doesn't want me to leave.

I am very frustrated about the man's lack of consideration. My husband considers him a good friend, but after the way we are being treated, I'm not convinced.

STILL WAITING IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR STILL WAITING:** I don't blame you for being miffed. Good friends don't treat each other so rudely. They answer their messages and show up when they're expected. Unless the man was in the hospital, solitary confinement or dead, there's no excuse for his poor manners. Because your husband considers him a good friend, he should have stayed home to welcome "the artist" and let you off the hook.

**DEAR ABBY:** My son and daughter-in-law are "horrified" that we refer to our 3-year-old grandson's penis using the correct terminology. Should we relent and refer to that part of his

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



body as something else?

UNSURE IN THE SOUTH

**DEAR UNSURE:** Not in my opinion. Children should be taught the correct terms for their body parts as soon as they are aware enough to identify—and pronounce—they. To do this will prevent confusion and possibly embarrassment later.

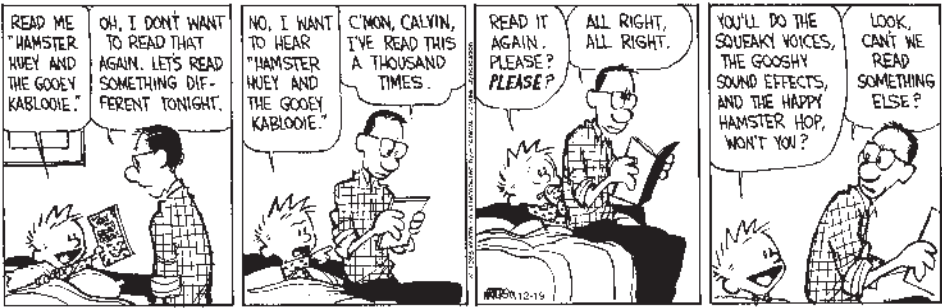
For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

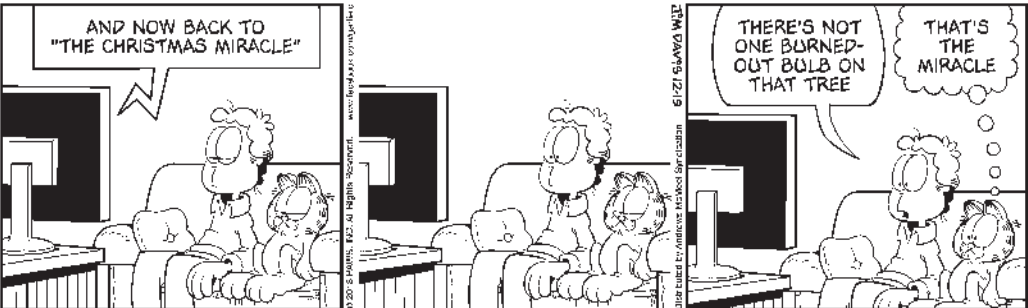
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- 1 Cast a ballot
- 5 — carte
- 8 Pack cargo
- 12 Big-screen format
- 13 "You've got mail" ISP
- 14 Sleek, in car lingo
- 15 School fundraiser
- 17 Erupted
- 18 Adversary
- 19 Orchestral instruments
- 21 Use a rosary
- 24 Profit
- 25 Salamander
- 28 Endure
- 30 Canine cry
- 33 "Entourage" character
- 34 Sounds from Santa
- 35 Privy

**DOWN**

- 1 Unspoken
- 2 Muscat's land
- 3 Seize
- 4 Off the hook
- 5 Bond rating
- 6 Texter's chuckle
- 7 Sir Guinness
- 8 Shade of black
- 9 Revealing
- 10 Crunchy cookie
- 11 Amazes
- 16 Neighbor of Leb.
- 20 Tolkien creatures
- 22 Oodles
- 23 Bumpkin
- 25 Snooze
- 26 Historic time
- 27 Type of corduroy
- 29 Dance partner?
- 31 Caviar base
- 32 Dandy guy
- 34 Get wind of
- 38 Merchant
- 40 No longer wild
- 42 — Alamos
- 43 Answer an invite
- 44 Israeli airline
- 45 June 6, 1944
- 47 Long story
- 48 Grade sch.
- 49 Golf props
- 52 Nipper's co.
- 53 "Uh-huh"

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 12-19**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Marla Sokoloff, 38; Jake Gyllenhaal, 38; Alyssa Milano, 46; Tyson Beckford, 48.

**Happy Birthday:** Consider what you can do for others and give of yourself. Clarify the options and choose the recipients of your good tidings based on their individual needs. How you handle those trying to trick or fool you will show the depth of your own personal integrity. What you stand for and say will make a difference. Your numbers are 9, 11, 22, 27, 33, 45, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Change because you want to, not because someone is putting pressure on you. Consider what you have to gain or lose before you take part in a joint venture. Protect against loss as well as theft. Focus on an important relationship. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Emotions will surface and should be channeled into partnerships that matter to you. Do whatever it takes to bring you closer to the one you love. Take care of family business and responsibilities as well as older relatives. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** If you don't mean it or believe it, don't say it. Words matter, and leading someone on or offering something you won't be able to do will lead to situations that spin out of control. Don't stir up drama. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Get involved in events that matter. If you can bring someone joy or help someone you love, you will set a good example. Your loyalty, dedication and imaginative way

of finding solutions will pay off. Romance is highlighted. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You'll be in a party mood. Getting out with your peers may be inviting, but keep in mind business is business, so don't jeopardize your work relationships by being too excessive or opinionated. Do what's right, and avoid an emotional scene. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Get out and pick up last-minute items before it's too late. A change someone makes will affect your household and your upcoming plans. Put business before pleasure and avoid complaints. A romantic gesture will please someone you love. \*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Express your thoughts, but don't put pressure on others to do as you do. Give everyone the option to make decisions and to do their own things. Someone you thought you could trust will let you down. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Short trips, making plans with friends and relatives and picking up items that will finish your wish list for upcoming events will bring you pleasure. Romance is in the stars. A special offer is heading your way. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone manipulate you. You can only do what's feasible, nothing more, so don't get trapped in what others want. Offer only what you know you can and want to contribute. \*\*\*

**EUGENIA LAST**  
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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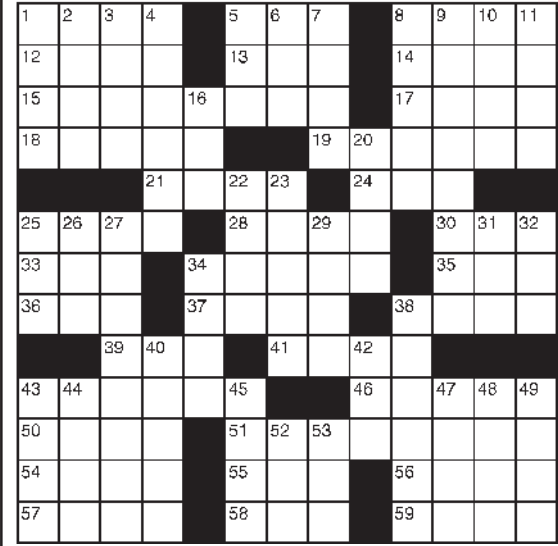
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Carry your head high and offer what you can to those you love. Share your feelings, and focus on family and what you mean to one another. Love and romance should be priorities. A little praise will go a long way. \*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** A surprise is heading your way. You'll be able to make a positive change that will encourage greater freedom to pursue your goals. Don't let an emotional incident ruin your plans. Stick to your goals, regardless of what someone else does. \*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Truth, honesty and moderation will make a difference in the outcome of your day. Be the one to help, not the one to cause a problem. Offer support and positive solutions. Concentrate on good health, fitness and a better future. \*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are practical, aware and intense. You are industrious and loving.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**SUDOKU**

**Conceptis Sudoku** By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

8	5	6	7	4	3	9	1	2
7	1	4	9	5	2	3	8	6
2	9	3	1	8	6	5	4	7
9	7	5	3	6	8	1	2	4
4	3	1	2	9	7	8	6	5
6	8	2	5	1	4	7	3	9
3	4	8	6	7	9	2	5	1
5	6	7	8	2	1	4	9	3
1	2	9	4	3	5	6	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/19

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**WONDERWORD** By DAVID CUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**FRENCH ONION SOUP** Solution: 7 letters

B Y E L S R A P W O L L E Y C  
S S I W S T O R R A C G D A H  
R C R U L T H E A T G N R D I  
E R G A A O C M W W A A D C  
T A S G N I B M H R M E B E K  
R F E L P A R I B E R U C K E  
A T S E K A T S L B T O Y O N  
T E I E W E T I R T N R H O S  
S D R P S O Z O E S E E H C T  
F R A N C E I R O L K F Y M O  
C R P K D L E M E N R E M I C  
O U P A E N M C U S K E E L K  
M O M D J E L D A L E B V K D  
T L T O M A T O L W O B T O H  
E F Y R R E H S N O T U O R C

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Bake, Beef, Brandy, Bread, Broiled, Butter, Caramelized, Carrots, Celery, Cheese, Chicken Stock, Comté, Consommé, Cooked, Cover, Crafted, Croutons, Dunk, Egg Whites, Enjoy, Flour, France, Heat, Hot Bowl, Ladle, Leeks, Made, Milk, Paris, Parsley, Peel, Potage, Recipe, Salt, Sherry, Simmer, Starter, Stock Pot, Sugar, Swiss, Thyme, Tomato, Warm, Yellow

**Yesterday's Answer: Fenway Park**

Treasures 13 through 34 can be purchased online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com).



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The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ DONNIE P. MILITANTE  
Acting Executive Director

/s/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA  
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY  
A. Call to Order  
B. Roll Call  
C. Adoption of Agenda  
D. Adoption of Minutes  
1. October 09, 2018

II. NEW BUSINESS  
A. Review  
1. Voc ED Applicants (2)  
B. TMSB Policies  
C. Spring Semester 2019

III. MISCELLANEOUS

IV. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION1

VI. ADJOURNMENT

/s/Rodney S. Cabarles  
Chairman

1 Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.  
2 Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

WHATZIT Solution: A white elephant

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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# MLS shortens season, goes to all-knockout playoffs



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Major League Soccer is shortening its season by a month, going to single-elimination playoffs and scheduling the 2019 MLS Cup final for Nov. 10 in its earliest finish since 2002.

The league announced the change Monday and will have an all-knockout postseason in place of a two-leg format for the conference semifinals and finals. MLS had started using a two-leg, total-goals format in 2003.

After then-U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann criticized the league's season as being too short, MLS stretched its schedule into December each year starting in 2012. Klinsmann was fired in November 2016.

"The big challenge is for MLS overall, how can they stretch that season into a format that is kind of competitive with the rest of the world?" Klinsmann said in 2011. "Right now it's not competitive. If you have a seven-, eight-month season, that's not competitive with the rest of the world."

MLS says the new format will reward teams with top regular seasons with greater home-field advantage.

The league expands to 24 teams with the addition of Cincinnati next year, and 14 teams will make the playoffs. Each of the two conference winners will get first-round byes and be joined in the conference semifinals by the winners of the three first-round series.

The league will finish before the November international break—and before the start of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar that Nov. 21. The October break will be between the end of the regular season and



Atlanta United goalkeeper Brad Guzan (1) makes a save in front of Portland Timbers forward Dairon Asprilla (27) during the second half of the MLS Cup championship soccer game, Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018, in Atlanta. MLS is shortening its season by a month, going to single-elimination playoffs, and scheduling the 2019 MLS Cup final for Nov. 10.

ning in September or October," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said this month. "Our playoff format, the one that we're evaluating, I think is really going to place a very, very high emphasis, strong emphasis, on the regular season."

Meanwhile, Dallas has hired Luchi Gonzalez, at 38 the second-youngest head coach in Major League Soccer.

Gonzalez replaces Oscar Pareja, who left after five seasons and became coach of Tijuana.

The only younger MLS coach is 37-year-old Anthony Hudson of Colorado in 2002.

Gonzalez starred at Southern Methodist before joining Dallas' academy in April 2012 as the under-18 coach. He became academy director in 2015 and has coached the under-16 team for the past four years. Dallas has signed 15 homegrown players coached by Gonzalez.

Gonzalez made eight appearances for San Jose as a rookie in 2002, then left for Bodens of Sweden's second division, where he had eight goals and four assists in his first season. In 2004, he signed with Peru's Sporting Cristal.

He returned to MLS in 2005 with Colorado, moved to Miami in the third tier United Soccer League in 2007 and ended his career with the USL's Minnesota Thunder in 2009.

## Ibrahimovic to remain with LA Galaxy

Zlatan Ibrahimovic is staying with the LA Galaxy.

A person with knowledge of the deal confirmed the 37-year-old striker will play next season for the Major League Soccer team. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Galaxy had not yet formally announced it.

Ibrahimovic made \$1.5 million for the Galaxy last season, the first year of a two-year contract. His new deal, according to the person with knowledge of the contract, in-

cludes a raise and makes him a designated player.

Ibrahimovic had 22 goals and 10 assists in 27 games last season, his first with the Galaxy. He dropped a video on social media Monday morning with the words, "MLZ I'm not done with you yet."

There had been persistent rumors linking him to European clubs, including one of his former teams, AC Milan, but Milan confirmed last week that a deal for a loan could not be struck.

Ibrahimovic was named the MLS Newcomer of the

Year, beating out D.C. United's Wayne Rooney. He came to the Galaxy from Manchester United, where he played for two seasons. He made 53 appearances with the club, scoring 29 goals.

The 36-year-old forward is Sweden's career scoring leader with 62 goals in 116 national team appearances. He is the first player to make Champions League appearances for seven teams, including stints with Paris Saint-Germain, Ajax, Juventus and Barcelona.

The deal comes in the

midst of a busy offseason for the five-time MLS champion Galaxy, who last week officially named Dennis Klase as their general manager.

The club has yet to announce a new head coach after finishing last season under interim coach Dominic Kinnear, who took over after coach Sigi Schmid parted ways with the team.

The Galaxy went 13-12-9 and missed out on the playoffs, squandering a two-goal lead and falling to Houston 3-2 in the final game of the season.

the start of the playoffs.

Opening day will be March 2 next year, and the regular season will end Oct. 6.

The league said the changes resulted from discussions throughout the year with team owners, general managers,

television partners and other officials. The changes were ratified last week.

"The idea here is to continu-

ally work on making the regular season become more and more important, so winning in March is as important as win-

**NYON, Switzerland** (AP)—One of the fiercest international rivalries in soccer will play out three times in the last 16 of the Champions League when a trio of English teams take on German opposition.

Five-time European champions Liverpool and Bayern Munich were drawn Monday to face each other, Manchester City was paired with Schalke and Tottenham will play Bundesliga leader Borussia Dortmund.

"It was clear it would be difficult, they are obviously a top side," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, who lost the 2013 final to Bayern when coaching Dortmund. "For me it's nice, going to Germany."

While Bayern is third in the Bundesliga, Liverpool leads the Premier League. Two goals from former Bayern winger Xherdan Shaqiri lifted

## 3 English teams face German squads in Champions League

Liverpool to a 3-1 win Sunday over Manchester United.

"They're the team of the hour. They're the league leaders in England," Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said of Liverpool. "They play good football, they're very physical and they're full of energy."

The first leg is at Anfield on Feb. 19 with the return match in Munich on March 13.

The draw included nine former champions with a combined 40 of the 63 Champions League or European Cup titles since the competition began in 1955.

Three-time defending champion Real Madrid was paired with Ajax. Madrid and Ajax have won 17 of those 63 titles those but have never met in a final.

The potential first-time winners include Paris Saint-Ger-

main, which will play Manchester United. The first leg is at Old Trafford on Feb. 12.

PSG is the runaway French league leader and won the toughest group ahead of Liverpool and Napoli, scoring a tournament-high 17 goals.

Man United's loss at Liverpool left it in a distant sixth place and playing the kind of soccer under manager Jose Mourinho that is almost unrecognizable from its traditionally fearless attacking style.

"We're obviously not playing well at the moment," former United player Denis Irwin said at UEFA headquarters after the draw. "But we have got some fantastic players and a coach who knows how to win, and knows how to win this competition."

In other matches, Barcelona

was drawn with Lyon, Serie A leader Juventus will take on Atletico Madrid and Porto will play Roma.

Man City, also seeking its first title, arguably got the weakest opponent on current form. Schalke is in 13th place in the Bundesliga.

"I would like to play on Wednesday, but I can't, so we have to wait for February," Man City sporting director Txiki Begiristain said, noting Schalke has a three-week break coming up. "They have the time to rest. Let's see how they are in February, and how we are."

Months after leaving Real Madrid, Cristiano Ronaldo will return to the Spanish city with Juventus for the first leg against Atletico. The final on June 1 will also be played at the Metropolitano Stadium in Madrid.

The first legs will be played from Feb. 12-20, with the second legs scheduled between March 5-13.

### Last 16 Draw

**First Leg**  
**Feb. 12**  
Manchester United (England) vs. Paris Saint-Germain (France)  
Roma (Italy) vs. Porto (Portugal)  
Wednesday, Feb. 13  
Tottenham (England) vs. Borussia Dortmund (Germany)  
Ajax (Netherlands) vs. Real Madrid (Spain)  
**Feb. 19**  
Lyon (France) vs. Barcelona (Spain)  
Liverpool (England) vs. Bayern Munich (Germany)  
**Feb. 20**  
Schalke (Germany) vs.

Manchester City (England)  
Atletico Madrid (Spain) vs. Juventus (Italy)

### Second Leg

**March 5**  
Borussia Dortmund (Germany) vs. Tottenham (England)  
Real Madrid (Spain) vs. Ajax (Netherlands)  
**March 6**  
Paris Saint-Germain (France) vs. Manchester United (England)  
Porto (Portugal) vs. Roma (Italy)  
**March 12**  
Manchester City (England) vs. Schalke (Germany)  
Juventus (Italy) vs. Atletico Madrid (Spain)  
**March 13**  
Barcelona (Spain) vs. Lyon (France)  
Bayern Munich (Germany) vs. Liverpool (England)



# Saints beat Panthers, protect NFC lead



**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—**New Orleans put the clamps on Cam Newton, and the Saints beat the Carolina Panthers 12-9 on Monday night to take a big step toward locking up home-field advantage in the NFC playoffs.

The Saints' defense, which has been among the best in the league the last six weeks, held the former MVP to 131 yards passing, sacked him four times and forced two turnovers on a night when Drew Brees and the offense couldn't get much going.

Alvin Kamara had 103 yards from scrimmage and a touchdown, and Brees had 203 yards passing for the Saints (12-2), who took a one-game lead in the NFC over the Rams. The Saints close the season at home against Pittsburgh and Carolina; the Rams visit Arizona and host San Francisco.

Carolina's only scores came off a trick play on fourth down—a 50-yard touchdown pass from running back Christian McCaffrey to tight end Chris Manhertz—and an interception return by Donte Jackson on a 2-point conversion attempt.

The Saints limited Carolina (6-8) to 247 yards and 13 first downs as Newton struggled



AP  
New Orleans Saints' Michael Thomas (13) and Carolina Panthers' James Bradberry (24) grab each other's face masks in the second half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Dec. 17, 2018.

throwing the ball more than 10 yards down the field with a sore right shoulder.

The Panthers have lost six straight and are all but elimi-

nated from playoff contention. They're 1½ games behind the Vikings and one game behind the Eagles and Redskins for the second NFC wild card spot

with two games remaining.

The Panthers struck first after offensive coordinator Norv Turner dug into his bag of tricks.

On a fourth-and-2 from mid-field, McCaffrey got a handoff, took a step toward the line, then stepped back and lofted a perfect pass over the middle to Manhertz, who was 15 yards behind the defense. Manhertz trotted into the end zone for a 50-yard touchdown and a 7-0 lead.

It was McCaffrey's first career pass attempt, although he threw two TD passes while at Stanford. He became the first

non-QB to throw a TD pass in Panthers history.

The Saints responded with two field goals by Wil Lutz and appeared on the verge of taking the lead before halftime, but James Bradberry intercepted Brees' tipped pass and returned it to Saints territory. Carolina's subsequent drive ended when Eli Apple intercepted Newton in the end zone with 10 seconds left in the half.

The Panthers held the Saints in check for most of the third quarter, but the game changed when Panthers receiver D.J.

Moore fumbled on an inside handoff. The Saints pounced, capping an 84-yard drive with a 16-yard TD run by Kamara to make it 12-7 early in the fourth quarter. The Saints went for 2, but Brees' toss was intercepted by Jackson, who took it back nearly 100 yards.

A fumble by Tommylee Lewis near the goal line turned into a touchback and gave Carolina one last chance to tie the game with 1:44 remaining. But the Panthers couldn't move the ball and turned it over on downs.

## Led by Nick Foles, resilient Eagles are back in playoff mix

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)—**Facing a must win with their Super Bowl MVP backup quarterback leading the way, the Philadelphia Eagles responded like champions.

Don't write them off just yet.

"We're still playing for something," coach Doug Pederson said Monday, less than 24 hours after Nick Foles led the Eagles to a 30-23 victory over the Los Angeles Rams. "Our backs are against the wall. We know the nature of where we are, what needs to be done, and I think you saw a little bit of that last night. Just how well this team kind of came together in all three phases to get this win against a great football team."

The Eagles (7-7) still need help to get in the playoffs. They can only win the NFC East if they beat Houston (10-4) at home and Washington (7-7) on the road and Dallas (8-6) goes 0-2 or 0-1-1 vs. Tampa Bay (5-9) and at the Giants (5-9).

A wild-card berth is more likely if Philadelphia wins out, though Minnesota (7-6-1) or Carolina (6-7) has to lose or tie once more or Seattle (8-6) has to go 0-2 or 0-1-1.

"We want to continue to play," safety Malcolm Jenkins said. "If we want our dreams to continue we've got

to go take it. ... We've got the mentality that we have to go steal whatever it is that we want if we want to continue. It's not going to be easy; nobody asked it to be. We're fine with doing something special and extraordinary. Let's just take it one week at a time, keep competing and keep having fun."

Filling in for injured starter Carson Wentz, Foles was excellent against the Rams (11-3). He completed 24 of 31 passes for 270 yards. Foles threw an interception but led the offense to its second-highest scoring output this season in his first start since Week 2.

The veteran played with the same poise and confidence he displayed during the 2017 postseason when he stepped in for Wentz and led Philadelphia to its first NFL title since 1960.

"He's like a point guard in basketball, and he just wants to distribute the ball, doesn't matter where. He just wants to distribute the ball," Pederson said. "I think that's what you see characteristic of great quarterbacks in this league is how well they can do that. They don't get too high. They don't get too low. They kind of stay right in the middle. If something negative happens in the game, they brush

it off and want to come back to it again. They will make it right the next time. Our quarterbacks have that type of demeanor and that is one of Nick's strengths, obviously, and it showed."

Pederson said Foles will start this week against the Texans but Wentz will remain on the active roster despite a stress fracture in his back.

"We continue to gather information like we do on all our athletes and all our players," Pederson said. "The information is favorable and it's something that was positive for him, positive for us. But at the same time, we have to make sure that he's 100 percent or better before we put him back out there. But right now, he'll be listed as week to week and we will go from there."

Pederson and offensive coordinator Mike Groh simplified the game plan before playing the Rams, an idea that originated after a 29-23 overtime loss at Dallas and before it was known Wentz wasn't going to start.

The Eagles were balanced on offense, running the ball on 30 of 61 offensive plays. They're 7-0 this season when they have at least 25 running plays and 0-7 when they don't.

## Brady, Pats look ordinary and vulnerable as problems mount

**PITTSBURGH—**Tom Brady had a keen sense of what you may be thinking as he tried to explain what all went wrong on Sunday at Heinz Field. It was just a mess of a loss for the Patriots, who suddenly have the look of some basic, ordinary NFL team in trouble rather a perennial contender.

"All of us feel it," Brady said after the 17-10 setback against the Steelers. "It's not any one thing, and it's a lot of things collectively. We have always won as a team, and we lose as a team."

"We're not going to make any excuses. We just have to do a better job."

New England (9-5), which might have cost itself a first-round bye in the AFC playoffs with the loss, has certainly had its share of similar rough patches and assorted adversities throughout these dynasty decades. Yet typically Bill Belichick's teams manage to show up in January with a chance to

contend for a Super Bowl. But the latest performance, a week after a last-minute meltdown in Miami, was so far off the scale of what's typical for Belichick's crew, especially at this time of year.

The last-minute magic was missing. And Brady's three incompletions to the end zone that settled the game marked the second fourth-quarter drive in which New England came up with zero points.

The run defense was horrific. That was Jaylen Samuels—not Le'Veon Bell or even James Conner—who shredded New England for 142 rushing yards. Samuels, a fifth-round rookie, had never rushed for 100 yards, not even in high school. Nor had he ever carried 19 times in a game until Sunday.

Rob Gronkowski was a shell of himself. That's been a theme all season, but he's been a card-carrying Steelers killer for years. He didn't

catch a pass on Sunday until the fourth quarter, but it wasn't a matter of him merely being smothered by Pittsburgh's coverage. It appeared that for much of the game, the Patriots kept Gronkowski out of patterns and instead relied on him more as a pass protector. In the end: two catches, 21 yards.

The penalties. Nothing blares "sloppy" like 14 penalties for 106 yards.

The drops. At least four of Brady's passes were breadbasket throws muffed by the receivers.

The misfires. Brady wasn't as sharp as usual, sometimes affected by the Steelers' rush and in other cases just plain off. Or a combination of both factors. On the fourth-quarter red zone pick snagged by Joe Haden at the sideline, Brady insists he was trying to throw the football away. And none of the last four throws to the end zone came close to connecting for six.



# Curry hits 15K mark in win over Grizzlies

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)**—Stephen Curry missed his first three tries from deep, got a little frustrated and forgot about the 10 points he needed for another major milestone.

Curry had 20 points and seven rebounds while adding another accomplishment to his long list, leading the Golden State Warriors past the Memphis Grizzlies 110-93 on Monday night.

Curry became just the fifth player in Warriors history to score 15,000 points during the regular season—joining the company of Wilt Chamberlain, Rick Barry, Paul Arizin and Chris Mullin.

“It was a pretty cool moment, again just reflecting on the entire 9½ years and more to come,” Curry said. “Definitely appreciative of the opportunity, the milestone, hopefully a lot more to come.”

Kevin Durant scored 23 points to go with five assists and passed Larry Bird (21,791) for 33rd place on the NBA’s all-time scoring list. Klay Thompson contributed 16 points with five rebounds.

Golden State led by as many as 25 points in the second quarter in quickly turning the game into a rout. That allowed coach Steve Kerr to rest many of his regulars as the Warriors began a busy stretch with eight games before the end of the year, including Christmas night at home against LeBron James and the Lakers.

## Rockets 102, Jazz 97

In Houston, James Harden scored 47 points to help Houston hold off Utah for its fourth straight win.

It was the Rockets’ first victory over the Jazz this season after dropping the first two meetings. The team’s current winning streak comes following a three-game skid.

Houston led by double digits early in the fourth quarter, but poor shooting left the Rockets tied with about two minutes left. A 3-pointer by Harden put Houston back on top and he added two free throws with about a minute remaining to make it 99-94.

Under heavy pressure, Harden stepped back and hit a 3 to make it 102-97 with 13.3 seconds left.

Donovan Mitchell had 23 points for the Jazz, who have lost four of five.

## Trail Blazers 131, Clippers 127

In Los Angeles, Damian Lillard scored 22 of his 39 points in a dominant third quarter and Portland defeated Los Angeles.

Lillard hit five of his six 3-pointers in the third when the Trail Blazers outscored the



Golden State Warriors’ Stephen Curry, right, shoots over Memphis Grizzlies’ Marc Gasol (33) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 17, 2018, in Oakland, Calif. The Warriors won, 110-93.

Clippers 42-28. Portland was 10 of 20 from 3-point range in the game.

C.J. McCollum added 27 points and Jusuf Nurkic had 20.

Tobias Harris matched Lillard with a career-high 39 points and rookie Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 24 for the Clippers, who have lost four in a row for the first time this season.

## Spurs 123, 76ers 96

In San Antonio, Rudy Gay had 21 points and LaMarcus Aldridge and DeMar DeRozan each added 20 as San Antonio defeated Philadelphia.

San Antonio bounced back after squandering a 21-point lead in a loss to Chicago on Saturday night. The Spurs held an opponent under 100 points for the fifth straight game.

J.J. Redick and Ben Simmons each scored 16 points to lead the 76ers. Joel Embiid was limited to 13 points on 6-for-17 shooting and finished with 11 rebounds.

Aldridge added 10 rebounds

and DeRozan had seven assists for the Spurs, who completed a 5-1 homestand.

## Thunder 121, Bulls 96

In Oklahoma City, Paul George scored 16 of his 24 points in the final five minutes of the first half and Oklahoma City rolled past Chicago.

George’s outburst came in the last 4:47 of the second quarter as the Thunder outscored the Bulls 23-7 and built a 64-44 lead at the break. He scored just one point in the second half.

Russell Westbrook had 13 points, 16 rebounds and 11 steals for his 111th career triple-double. Steven Adams added 19 points and Dennis Schroder scored 18 for the Thunder.

## Timberwolves 132, Kings 105

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 14 points and 14 assists in just 21 minutes, Andrew Wiggins scored 17 and Minnesota got a big boost

from its bench in beating road-weary Sacramento.

Derrick Rose added 13 points and a season-high 11 assists while starting for injured point guard Jeff Teague. Minnesota led by 36 in the first half against Sacramento, which was coming off a 120-113 victory at Dallas a night earlier.

The Timberwolves returned home following an 0-4 trip, including a 141-130 loss at Sacramento.

Buddy Hield scored 21 points for the Kings but didn’t play in the second half. Sacramento coach Dave Joerger didn’t play any of his starters after halftime.

## Suns 128, Knicks 110

In New York, Devin Booker tied his season high with 38 points, T.J. Warren scored 17 of his 26 during Phoenix’s 41-point third quarter and the Suns beat New York for their third straight victory.

Phoenix outscored New York 41-17 in the third and

went on to win three consecutive games for the first time since March 2-5, 2017. The Suns won only four times in their first 28 games, but are 3 for 3 since.

Deandre Ayton finished with 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Suns in an impressive start to a five-game road trip, their longest of the season. Jamal Crawford had a career-high 14 assists as last-place Phoenix improved to 2-13 away from home, toughening up in the second half after giving up 12 offensive rebounds in the first.

Emmanuel Mudiay had 32 points, six rebounds and six assists for the Knicks, who lost for the seventh time in eight games. New York played without leading scorer Tim Hardaway Jr. because of a sore right heel.

## Bucks 107, Pistons 104

In Detroit, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 12 rebounds, and the Milwaukee Bucks held on for a victory over the Detroit Pistons on Monday night when Blake Griffin missed a last-second 3-pointer.

Griffin actually missed two 3s in the final 14 seconds. The Detroit star already had a triple-double after three quarters, but it was a quiet fourth for him. Griffin finished with 19 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, but he also had 10 turnovers.

The Pistons rallied from a 15-point, third-quarter deficit and took an 89-86 lead in the fourth. Antetokounmpo put Milwaukee up by three with a dunk, then added a three-point play and a driving layup to make it 107-100.

## Pacers hire NBA’s 1st female assistant general manager

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)**—The Indiana Pacers have hired Kelly Krauskopf as their new assistant general manager, making her the first woman in league history to hold the title.

Krauskopf has a long history with the franchise.

She spent 19 seasons as the top executive of the WNBA’s Indiana Fever and helped oversee Indiana’s new NBA2K league team. She also served as the WNBA’s first director of basketball operations, as an assistant commissioner for the Southwest Conference and on USA Basketball’s women’s senior national team committee.

“My past experience has shown me that building winning teams and elite level culture is not based on gender—it is based on people and processes,” Krauskopf said in a statement released by the team. “I am excited to join the Pacers as we continue building the best NBA franchise in the business.”

The midseason move comes at a key moment for the Pacers.

They have won seven straight to tie the Milwaukee Bucks for the Central Division lead heading into Monday’s games. They are tied with two-time defending champion Golden State for the fourth-best winning percentage in the league, trailing only Toronto, Milwaukee and Denver.

“She is very well respected in all basketball circles and she has great knowledge of our entire operation, so when we looked at this posi-

tion, it made complete sense to just look in our own building,” Pacers president of basketball operations Kevin Pritchard said. “We think she will be a great asset to myself, general manager Chad Buchanan and senior vice president of basketball operations Peter Dinwiddie as we pursue our goal of building a winning team for our state and our city.”

Women are becoming a bigger part of the NBA. Kristi Toliver was recently hired as an assistant in Washington and Chasity Melvin is an assistant with Charlotte’s G League affiliate in Greensboro, North Carolina. Becky Hammon is now a veteran of the coaching staff in San Antonio, and Natalie Sago and Ashley Moyer-Gleich made their debuts this season as referees.

Krauskopf has a reputation for building winners.

With the Fever, she constructed a team that made the playoffs 13 times, reached the WNBA Finals three times and won the 2012 title — the only professional basketball title won by a team in Indiana since the 1970s. Krauskopf will walk away from the Fever and the NBA2K league team Jan. 1.

“As the architect of one of the WNBA’s most successful franchises, Kelly is a true pioneer in our sport,” team owner Herb Simon said. “I’ve worked with Kelly over the past two decades, so I know her tremendous basketball mind, strong work ethic and proven leadership skills will continue to be of great benefit to our organization.”



# Astros agree to 2-year deal with Brantley



**HOUSTON**  
(AP)—A person familiar

with the negotiations tells The Associated Press the Houston Astros have agreed to a two-year deal with free agent outfielder Michael Brantley.

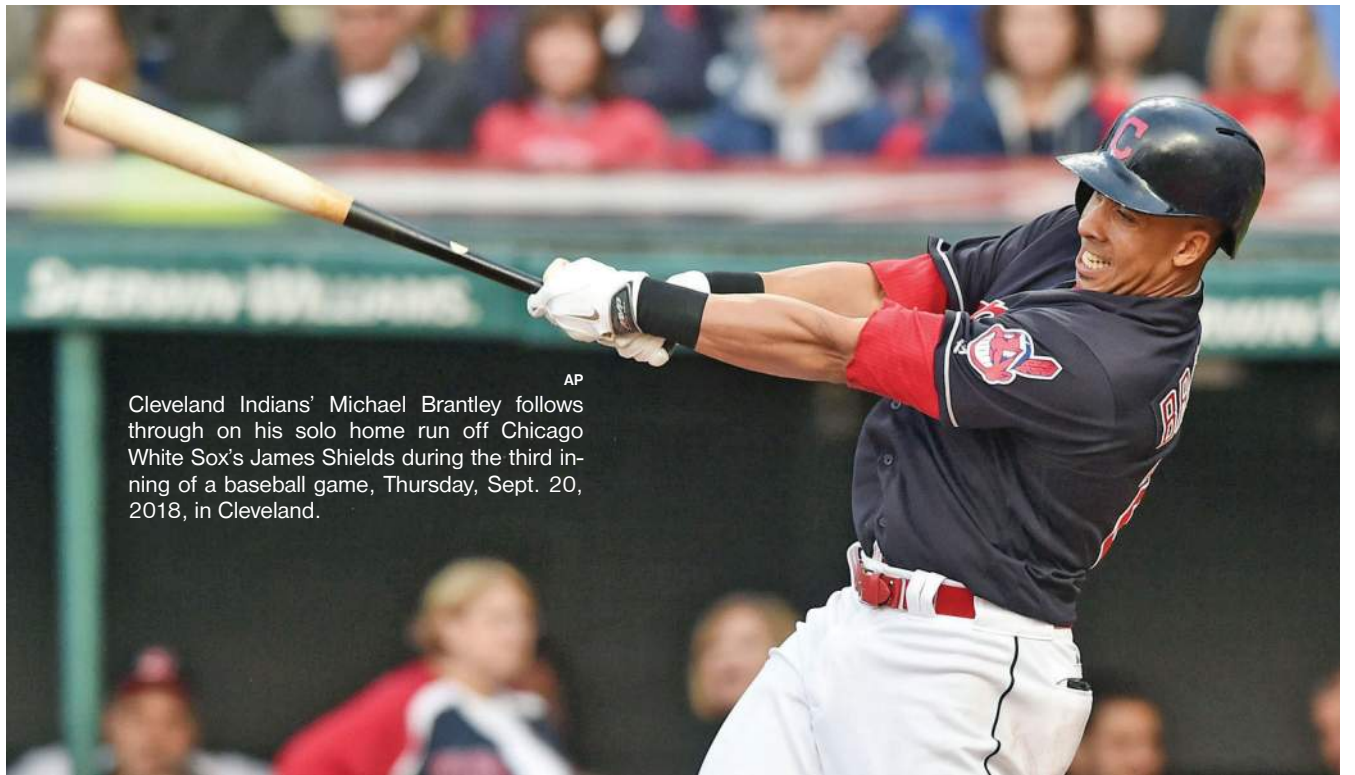
The person spoke on the condition of anonymity Monday night because the club has not yet announced the move.

The 31-year-old Brantley has spent his entire 10-year

career with the Cleveland Indians, where he was a three-time All-Star.

Brantley is a career .295 hitter and gives Houston an upgrade to an outfield anchored by center fielder George Springer.

Brantley hit .309 with 17 homers, 36 doubles and 76 RBIs last season in 143 games, with 134 starts in left field. Brantley's best season came in 2014 when he finished third in AL MVP voting



AP  
Cleveland Indians' Michael Brantley follows through on his solo home run off Chicago White Sox's James Shields during the third inning of a baseball game, Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018, in Cleveland.

## Top athletes and officials selection at NMSA meeting

Northern Marianas Sports Association's first monthly meeting for 2019 will be a busy one, as selection of top athletes of the month and other major awardees will be made on Jan. 3.

NMSA canceled its November and December meetings, as the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room, which is hosting the group's regular meeting, does not have power yet (due to Super Typhoon Yutu). With the cancellations, NMSA misses picking the student-athletes and male and female athletes of the month (for October, November, and December). Nominations for these monthly plums must be made in writing.

After the monthly winners are named, local sports federations will be allowed to nominate teams and individuals for the following awards: Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year (2018), Male and Female Athletes of the Year, Coach of the Year, Team of the Year, and Administrator of the

Year. NMSA is also expected to consider nominations for the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame.

All the monthly awardees for 2018 are automatically nominated for the top athletes awards, but local sports federations can still nominate individuals who were not on the winners list.

Weightlifting's Angel San Nicolas and athletics' Zarinae Sapong led the 2017 honor roll, getting the Male and Female Athletes of the Year award, while tennis earned four recognitions with Jimin Woo and Carol Lee taking the NMSA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year plums, Jeff Race winning the Coach of the Year trophy, and the CNMI Junior National Team bagging the Team of the Year award. Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Vickie Izuka completed the roster of winners after bringing home the Administrator of the Year trophy. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**

## GCA

From Page 32

consistent serving stroke and never relinquished the driver's seat to earn the victory and force the deciding third set.

The tides of the match then changed in final set, as GCA frontline players Steven Balakrishna and Sebastian Camacho capitalized on multiple spikes and executed well-timed blocks throughout the clincher. GCA's defense held on in the third set, giving Ryu, Balakrishna, and Camacho the opportunities they needed to score. The Eagles prompted a court switch after taking an 8-6 lead, and the momentum they garnered throughout the first half of the final set proved to be enough to slip past the Knights. Ryu, after his two aces powered GCA to victory in the first set, also delivered the last two serves of the game to seal the

deal for the Eagles.

After the tough win, Pajarilaga admitted they have more work to do to get better as the season progresses.

"Because this was our first game, we were a little rough. If we could polish our serves over the break, it would really help us in the upcoming games," the GCA team captain said.

Meanwhile, yesterday was the last playdate in the league this year, as participating schools will take a holiday break and matches will resume on Jan. 14.

For the first set of games next year, Agape Christian School will host GCA's girls and boys teams, while Mt. Carmel's varsity and junior varsity girls squads will play at their home turf in Chalan Kanoa. Like the Lady Knights, Saipan International School's two teams are also having a faceoff at the Geckos court in As Lito.

after hitting 20 homers with 97 RBIs—both career-highs.

## Sabathia gets \$500K bonus despite ejection

In New York, plunking an opponent paid off for CC Sabathia.

The New York Yankees gave Sabathia a \$500,000 performance bonus, even though the 38-year-old left-hander was ejected from his final regular-season start six outs shy of the 155 innings specified in his contract for

the payment.

Sabathia hit Tampa Bay's Jesus Sucre starting the sixth inning on Sept. 27 with his 55th pitch of the night, retaliation for Andrew Kittredge throwing a pitch behind Austin Romine in the top half.

"We thought it was a very nice gesture by the Yankees," Sabathia's agent, Kyle Thousand of Roc Nation Sports, told The Associated Press on Monday. "CC was very appreciative and is really excited to come back next year and, hopefully,

win a championship."

Neither side announced the decision, which became evident when the \$500,000 was included in the Yankees' final luxury tax payroll.

"It was something that we did very private and weren't looking to publicize, and I'll just leave it at that," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

Sabathia hit Jake Bauers on the knuckles of his right hand with an 88 mph fastball with two outs in the fifth in-

ning. Kittredge threw a 93 mph fastball behind Romine's neck with his initial pitch in the sixth, and plate umpire Vic Carapazza issued a warning to both benches. Sabathia started out of the Yankees dugout and had to be intercepted by manager Aaron Boone.

After New York opened an 11-0 lead, Sabathia hit Sucre the lower left leg with a 93 mph cutter on his first pitch in the bottom half, causing Carapazza to eject the pitcher and Boone.

## WTA changes rules affecting players returning from pregnancy

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.**

(AP)—The women's tennis tour approved rule changes Monday that are meant to ensure players are not penalized after they return from pregnancy or an injury that causes a long absence.

The changes were prompted, in part, by the experiences of former No. 1 players Serena Williams and Victoria Azarenka, both of whom returned to competition after giving birth.

The WTA announced that players returning to the tour may use a special ranking for up to three years after the birth of a child, and the exemption can be used for seedings at big events.

Williams, who owns an Open-era record 23 Grand Slam singles titles, was unseeded at this year's French Open in her first major since the birth of her daughter — despite having won the previous major she played, the 2017 Australian Open. Williams was seeded 25th at Wimbledon and 17th at the U.S. Open, and she reached the finals and lost at both of those majors.

Players who return from an injury that keeps them out of competition for a year or longer may use a special ranking in 12 tournaments. No player

will be bumped from her earned seeded position.

"These changes," WTA CEO and chairman Steve Simon said, "are designed to fully support players in their return to competition, while maintaining the highest standards of athletic competition and fairness."

The tour also said it will ensure women at WTA tournaments "are not penalized or prohibited from wearing leggings or compression shorts without a skirt, dress or shorts over them."

Williams wore a black bodysuit at the French Open, where she pulled out with an

injury before the fourth round. Williams said she wore the compression suit because of a history of blood clots, including after childbirth.

This fall, the president of the French Tennis Federation said Williams could no longer wear the black bodysuit at the French Open.

Azarenka, a member of the WTA Players' Council, said she wants to make sure the WTA is "the most progressive and inclusive association in sports."

"Our players should feel comfortable and confident to take time away from the courts to have a family or recover from injury," Azarenka said.

## PBs

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submitted 1:09.05, surpassing her old PBT of 1:09.10.

"I wasn't expecting the PBs, but I'm so thankful to have gotten them and I'm so much more motivated through the outcome of this meet. The highlight of my trip was swimming the 200m free, it's a very fun race and I could feel all the support from back home," the Saipan Swim Club member said.

Nearly 60 swimmers raced in the 200m freestyle event with Australia's Ariarne Tit-

mus winning the gold and Mallory Comerford of the U.S. and Femke Heemskerk of the Netherlands getting the silver and bronze, respectively. In the 100m freestyle swim, Thompson was one of the nearly 100 competitors that included gold and silver medalists Ranomi Kromowidjojo and Heemskerk of the Netherlands and bronze winner Comerford.

"China was one of the best swim meets that I competed in. I got to reunite with friends, watch world records get broken, and most importantly represent my island. It was a

little overwhelming, but at the same time the adrenaline rush made my races so fun. I was super excited to swim them and I'm happy to have gotten PB in both of my events," Thompson said.

Batallones was also in awe after seeing the best swimmers in the world.

"It was great get to see world-class swimmers race in the finals and break records. Competing there is really scary, but it was a good experience. I was able to experience how it felt like to be on the big stage," the Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan member said.

"More importantly, I am happy that I was able to drop time in both events," Batallones said.

In the 100m butterfly event, the 15-year-old swimmer clocked in at 1:05.15—chopping off more than two seconds from his old PB (1:08.00). In the shorter 50m butterfly, Batallones registered 29.58 in the preliminary races or more than a second faster than his previous mark (31 seconds).

Batallones, Jinju, and her father, Colin, who served as the team's coach, were joined in China by Lenno-suke Suzuki.





Curry hits 15K  
mark in win  
over Grizzlies

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



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32 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# GCA wins season opener

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN  
pamintuanrobby@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Grace Christian Academy's boys team finally debuted in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association High School Volleyball League and survived Mt. Carmel School in an extended match yesterday at the Eagles court.

The Eagles, who had their first two matches rescheduled due to lack of referees, withstood the Knights' onslaught, winning in three riveting sets, 26-24, 19-25, 15-9.

The opening set of the game featured several lead changes, as neither team was willing to give in. With the score evened at 9-9, Sam Ryu threaded two consecutive aces, which prompted



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

A Grace Christian Academy player blocks a shot from a Mt. Carmel School player during their game in the CCOPSA high school volleyball league yesterday at the Eagles court.

Knights coach Don Cabrera to call a timeout in an effort to

steady their ship. Shortly after the lull, Mt. Carmel team captain Eric Kiser strung four

consecutive serves to put the Knights on top, 19-18.

As the first set eventually

went to the last deadlock, 24-24, GCA skipper Josh Pajarillaga stepped up to the server's

line and delivered two consecutive serves to clinch the deuce victory for the Eagles. With Grace Christian's servers frequently overshooting their serves in the first set, Pajarillaga's back-to-back were a welcome sight, giving his teammates and supporters relief.

"Today's game was really an eye opener about unforced errors," Pajarillaga said. "As Coach C (Cesar Libut) said, it comes down to serves and it also comes down to playing smart on the court when it comes to your spike or your receive."

After losing the closely fought opener, the Knights found their groove in the second set, as they clamped down on defense and synergized on offense to smother the Eagles. GCA's serving woes carried over into the second set, providing Mt. Carmel with multiple opportunities to extend their lead. At the 5-5 tally, Chris Kim had five consecutive serves and left the Eagles' defense searching for answers. Mt. Carmel went on to take a double-digit lead behind Kim's

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CNMI swimmers Jinju Thompson and Nelson Batallones returned to Saipan yesterday, bringing home personal best times from the 14th FINA World Championships held at the Hangzhou Olympic and International Expo Center in China last week.

Thompson raced in the 100m and 200m freestyle events of the short-course meet, while Batallones competed in the 50m and 100m butterfly swims and both shattered their old PBs. The 15-year-old first joined the qualifying heats in the 200m freestyle event and timed in at 2:27.89, more than a second ahead of her previous PB (2:29.00). Then in the 100m freestyle event, Thompson

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## PBs for Thompson, Batallones



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI swimmers Nelson Batallones, left, and Jinju Thompson pose in one of the competition pools in the 14th FINA World Championships held at the Hangzhou Olympic and International Expo Center in China last week.